ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
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Activity Report

of the National Assembly of Québec

09-10

assnat.qc.ca

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 11
Mission 12
The Three Powers of the Québec State 12
The Roles of Members: Legislators, Controllers and Intermediaries 12
Members of the 39th Legislature as at March 31, 2010 14
Seating Plan of the National Assembly as at March 31, 2010 18

PARLIAMENTARY WORK 21
Schedule of Sittings 22
Work Performed at the National Assembly 23
Parliamentary Reform 26
Standing Committees 27
Organizations Reporting to the National Assembly 38

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY 39
Multilateral Relations 40
Bilateral Relations 43
Relations with European Institutions 44
Interparliamentary Cooperation 44
Official Visits 45

CITIZENS 47
Educational and Research Activities 48
A National Assembly That Opens Its Doors to Citizens 56
A Forum for Exchanges 62
Communications 64
A National Assembly That Does Its Part for Sustainable Development 67

HERITAGE 69
Documentary Heritage 70
Architectural and Urban Heritage 73

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION 75
Administrative Structure as at March 31, 2010 76
Office of the National Assembly 77
Personnel 77
A National Assembly for the 21st Century 80
National Assembly Expenditures 82

APPENDICES 83

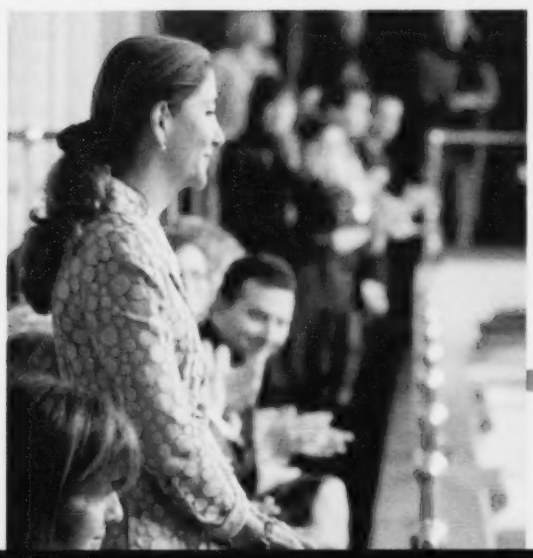
HIGHLIGHTS 2009–2010

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

On April 21, 2009, Members unanimously adopted an ambitious parliamentary reform seeking to foster greater Member autonomy and initiative, help Members work more effectively, enhance their role, reassert democratic balance in parliamentary proceedings and bring the Parliament closer to citizens. The product of a consensus between the parties represented in the National Assembly, the reform marks an important turning point in how work is organized at the National Assembly. It was unveiled at a press conference by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières; the Government House Leader, Mr. Jacques P. Dupuis; the Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Stéphane Bédard; the then Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Marc Picard; and the Member for Mercier, Mr. Amir Khadir. More details on p. 26.

MR. VALLIÈRES ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE FRANCOPHONIE

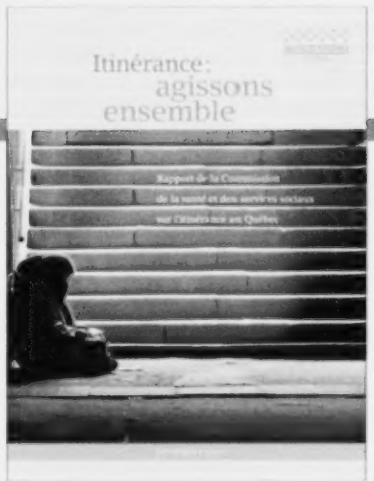
The President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Yvon Vallières, was elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF) on July 6, 2009, for a two-year term. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Vallières stressed the need to bolster the APF's political role with other member bodies of La Francophonie and to strengthen cooperation programs. He also plans to mobilize parliamentarians from the French-speaking world to pursue the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.



INGRID BETANCOURT VISITS THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Former Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, who was detained in the jungle for six years, received a warm welcome at the National Assembly on September 23, 2009. She was awarded the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly for her commitment to democracy, human rights and freedom of expression. Ms. Betancourt thanked the National Assembly in an emotional speech in which she spoke of fellow prisoners who had still not been released.

HIGHLIGHTS
2009–2010



HOMELESSNESS REPORT TABLED

The Committee on Health and Social Services (CHSS) tabled its report on homelessness in Québec, entitled *Itinérance : agissons ensemble*, in the National Assembly on November 4, 2009. The Committee had resumed this order of initiative on March 18, 2009, after having interrupted its work when a general election was called in fall 2008. Public hearings in Gatineau, Montréal, Québec City and Trois-Rivières heard 105 organizations and saw 145 briefs tabled. More details on p. 34.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW QUEBECERS

It was with great pride that the President of the National Assembly launched the inaugural National Assembly Open House for New Quebecers on October 27, 2009, where participants of various origins were invited to take part in a briefing and discussion with the President of the National Assembly and Members from their region. More details on p. 63.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN IS LAUNCHED

Announced by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, on November 12, 2009, and developed in partnership with the Chaire de recherche et d'intervention en écoconseil at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, the National Assembly's Sustainable Development Action Plan takes stock of actions already taken in this area. It also proposes 40 measures to be taken by 2012 as part of a concerted and consistent course of action. Since its launch, various steps have been taken, including the acquisition of a NEMO electric vehicle, the publication of a series of guides on sustainable activities and behaviour, the composting of hand towels and the creation of a sustainable development steering committee to monitor the action plan's implementation. More details on p. 67.

A NEW WEBSITE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On March 16, 2010, the National Assembly's brand new website went online. With its more user-friendly design, the new site (assnat.qc.ca) is intended to better reflect all the goings-on at the National Assembly, particularly via its event calendar. The site also seeks to encourage more online public participation in parliamentary proceedings by letting citizens comment on issues under study by the National Assembly or standing committees and send briefs and requests to be heard to committee. The site also lets visitors subscribe to RSS feeds to keep up with all the latest news. The new IT system behind the site will noticeably improve services to citizens and bring the National Assembly closer to the public. More details on p. 80.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The 2009–2012 Strategic Plan for the Administration of the National Assembly launched on November 11, 2009, supports Members in performing their parliamentary duties and contributes to the National Assembly's mission. It also concretizes the desire of the Assembly administration to pursue initiatives begun in the past few years, namely responding to changing Member requirements, bringing the National Assembly closer to citizens and encouraging the public to get involved in parliamentary proceedings. In addition, the plan seeks to implement the parliamentary reform adopted by Members in April 2009, raise the profile of the National Assembly across Québec and around the world and adopt a sustainable development plan. The strategic plan has spawned the Public Communications Plan and the 2009–2012 Youth Strategy.

PARLIAMENTARY ANNIVERSARIES

On May 28 and November 25, 2009, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, honoured 17 Members for parliamentary anniversaries ranging from ten to thirty years. The two ceremonies were held in the Legislative Council Chamber in the presence of various guests. More details on p. 17.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am proud to present the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec 2009–2010*. This report looks back on a very busy year for both Members and staff. Every year this report discusses the work of Members at the National Assembly and the standing committees, and this year is no exception. We will also be looking at highlights from the past year.

In 2009–2010, 88 sessions were held at the National Assembly in addition to 483 standing committee sessions. Parliamentary control activities represented close to 20% of committee work. Consideration of public bills and estimates of expenditure made up the lion's share (37.2% and 23.3% of their time respectively).

One of the Assembly's main achievements this year has been the ambitious parliamentary reform of April 2009. This reform has four main objectives: foster greater Member autonomy and initiative, help Members work more effectively, reassert democratic balance in parliamentary proceedings and bring the Parliament closer to citizens. The reform includes a series of measures designed to help meet these objectives.

"One of the Assembly's main achievements this year has been the ambitious parliamentary reform of April 2009."

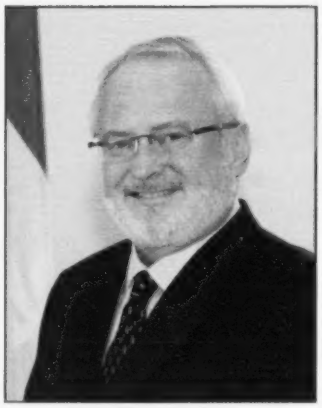
In keeping with its mission of raising its public profile, the Assembly has come up with a new activity: the National Assembly Open House for New Quebecers. Last fall and spring, new Quebecers from four regions were able to meet their elected representatives and learn more about the Assembly's history and how it works.

I was honoured to be elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF) in July 2009 for a two-year term. I intend to use my new role to bolster the APF's political role with other bodies of La Francophonie and to help raise the Assembly's profile abroad.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the work of the National Assembly of Québec in this report.

Yvon Vallières
President of the National Assembly

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



"March 16, 2010, marked a new milestone in the history of the Assembly with the launch of VIGIE."

Just like the President of the National Assembly, I am proud to present this eleventh activity report. Looking back on the work and achievements of the National Assembly over the past financial year gives me a feeling of "mission accomplished."

The last year saw the birth of the 2009–2012 Strategic Plan for the Administration of the National Assembly. It contains three main policy thrusts: continuously adapt working processes and services to meet changing Member requirements, bring the National Assembly and its Members closer to citizens and respond to new management challenges. The strategic plan has led to the Public Communications Plan and the 2009–2012 Youth Strategy. Together, these documents will help plot our course in the years ahead.

March 16, 2010, marked a new milestone in the history of the Assembly with the launch of VIGIE, the IT system behind our new website, which was also announced to the public on the same day. The new site has appreciably improved services to citizens. Easier to use, it is another step on the road to bringing the National Assembly closer to citizens, while creating an automated, integrated and centralized parliamentary information management system.

As set out in our strategic plan, we have also launched the National Assembly's Sustainable Development Action Plan. Developed in partnership with the Chaire de recherche et d'intervention en écoconseil at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, it takes stock of action already taken in this area and puts forward 40 measures to be implemented by 2012.

This report marks the end of a banner year rich in activities that helped raise the profile of the National Assembly of Québec both at home and abroad.

In closing, I invite you to read on to learn even more about the National Assembly of Québec.

François Côté

Secretary General of the National Assembly

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly and the Lieutenant-Governor form the Parliament of Québec. This Parliament assumes all the powers conferred on the Legislature of Québec *(Act respecting the National Assembly)*.

MISSION

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility for debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also have the role of supervising the actions of the Government, particularly during Oral Questions and Answers and during consideration of the Government's estimates of expenditure. They also debate all matters of public interest, most notably in standing committees. The duration of the collective term of office of these Members, which is called a "legislature," is provided for in the Constitution and may not exceed five years.

THE THREE POWERS OF THE QUÉBEC STATE

JUDICIAL POWER	LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER
Interprets the laws passed by the legislative branch. Decides whether a citizen or group has acted in accordance with the law.	Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws. Supervises the actions of the executive branch. Discusses matters of public interest.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State. Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative branch.
Courts	**Parliament**	**Government**

THE ROLES OF MEMBERS: LEGISLATORS, CONTROLLERS AND INTERMEDIARIES

At the National Assembly, the main role of Members is to participate in the legislative process. As legislators, they study, analyze and vote on bills. They exercise this role in several stages in both the National Assembly and standing committees.

Members also have several means for controlling the actions of the Government, including the opportunity to question Ministers on topics of current interest during Oral Questions and Answers and to examine the activities and management of departments and agencies in committee. They have a notable role to play when standing committees hold public consultations on major issues of the day.

In addition, Members play the role of intermediaries between citizens and the civil service. As representatives of the voters in their ridings, they defend their interests and explain their needs to the government.

As at March 31, 2010, the 125 seats were distributed as follows:

	Number of seats
Québec Liberal Party (QLP)	67
Parti québécois (PQ)	50
Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ)	4
Québec solidaire	1
Independents	2
Vacant (Vachon)	1

Did you know?

In the National Assembly, women occupy 29% of the seats or 36 of 124 (the seat of Vachon was vacant as at March 31, 2010).

Resignations

Three Members resigned in 2009–2010:

Ms. Monique Jérôme-Forget — Marguerite-Bourgeoys
First elected: November 30, 1998
Date of resignation: April 8, 2009

Mr. François Legault — Rousseau
First elected: November 30, 1998
Date of resignation: June 25, 2009

Mr. Camil Bouchard — Vachon
First elected: April 14, 2003
Date of resignation: January 6, 2010

JEAN CHAREST
Premier
Sherbrooke

MEMBERS
OF THE 39TH LEGISLATURE
AS AT MARCH 31, 2010

JACQUES P. DUPUIS
Government House Leader
Saint-Laurent

CLAUDE BÉCHARD
Deputy Government House Leader
Kamouraska-Témiscouata

HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTRIN
Deputy Government House Leader
Viau

PIERRE MOREAU
Chief Government Whip
Châteauguay

VINCENT AUCLAIR
Deputy Government Whip
Vimont

LUCIE CHARLEBOIS
Deputy Government Whip
Soulanges

LAWRENCE S. BERGMAN
Caucus Chair
D'Arcy McGee

PIERRE ARCAND
Mont-Royal

CLAUDE BACHAND
Arthabaska

RAYMOND BACHAND
Maskinongé

LINE BEAUCHAMP
Bertrand-Laurier

DANIEL BERNARD
Rouyn-Noranda
Témiscamingue

RAYMOND BERNIER
Montmorency

STÉPHANE BILLETTE
Huntingdon

MARGUERITE BLAIS
Saint-Henri
Sainte-Anne

YVES BOLDUC
Jean-Talon

JULIE BOULET
Laviolette

MARC CARRIÈRE
Chapleau

FRANCINE CHARBONNEAU
Mille-Îles

GERMAIN CHEVARIE
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

PIERRE CORBEIL
Abitibi-Est

MICHELLE COURCHESNE
Fabre

JEAN D'AMOUR
Rivière-du-Loup

JEAN-PAUL DIAMOND
Marguerite-D'Youville

ANDRÉ DROLET
Jean-Lesage

EMMANUEL DUBOURG
Viau

ROBERT DUTIL
Beauce-Sud

MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
Saint-François

MARYSE GAUDREAULT
Hull

CLÉMENT GIGNAC
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

JOHANNE GONTHIER
Mégantic-Compton

SAM HAMAD
Louis-Hébert

PATRICK HUOT
Vanier

YOLANDE JAMES
Nelligan

GEOFFREY KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier

CHARLOTTE L'ÉCUYER
Pontiac

GILLES LEHOUILLIER
Lévis

LAURENT LESSARD
Frontenac

NORMAN MacMILLAN
Papineau

GEORGES MAMELONET
Gargé

YVON MARCOUX
Vaudreuil

PIERRE MARSAN
Robert-Baldwin

MICHEL MATTE
Portneuf

NICOLE MÉNARD
Laporte

NORBERT MORIN
Montmagny-L'Islet

NATHALIE NORMANDEAU
Bonaventure

GUY OUELLETTE
Chomedey

FRANÇOIS OUIMET
Marquette

ALAIN PAQUET
Laval-des-Rapides

PIERRE PARADIS
Brome-Missisquoi

MICHEL PIGEON
Charlesbourg

PIERRE REID
Orford

FILOMENA ROTIROTI
Jeanne-Mance–Viger

SERGE SIMARD
Dubuc

GERRY SKLAVOUNOS
Laurier-Dorion

DANIELLE ST-AMAND
Trois-Rivières

CHRISTINE ST-PIERRE
Acadie

LISE THÉRIAULT
Anjou

TONY TOMASSI
Gatineau

STEPHANIE VALLÉE
Gatineau

DOMINIQUE VIEN
Bellechasse

KATHLEEN WEIL
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

DAVID WHISSELL
Argenteuil

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

A place for every citizen

PAULINE MAROIS
Leader of the official opposition
Charlevoix

STEPHANE BEDARD
Official Opposition House Leader
Chicoutimi

AGNES MALTAIS
Deputy Official Opposition House Leader
Taschereau

NICOLE LEGER
Chief Official Opposition Whip
Pointe-aux-Trembles

MARJOLAIN DUFOUR
Deputy Official Opposition Whip
Rene-Levesque

MARTIN LEMAY
Caucus Chair
Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques

JEAN-MARTIN AUSSANT
Nicolet-Yamaska

DENISE BEAUDOIN
Mirabel

LOUISE BEAUDOIN
Rivière-du-Loup

STEPHANE BERGERON
Verchères

PASCAL BÉRUBE
Matane

YVES-FRANÇOIS BLANCHET
Drummond

ETIENNE-ALEXIS BOUCHER
Johnson

MARIE BOUILLE
Iberville

NOËLLA CHAMPAGNE
Champlain

BENOIT CHARETTE
Deux-Montagnes

ALEXANDRE CLOUTIER
Lac-Saint-Jean

CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand

PIERRE CURZI
Berthier

DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia

BERNARD DRAINVILLE
Marie-Victorin

LUC FERLAND
Ungava

SYLVAIN GAUDREAULT
Jonquière

RENE GAUVREAU
Groulx

NICOLAS GIRARD
Lévis

VÉRONIQUE HIVON
Johnette

MAKA KOTTO
Bourget

LISETTE LAPOINTE
Crémazie

GUY LECLAIR
Beauharnois

MARIE MALAVOY
Taillon

NICOLAS MARCEAU
Rouyn-Noranda

SCOTT McKAY
L'Assomption

SYLVAIN PAGÉ
Labelle

EMILIEN PELLETIER
Saint-Hyacinthe

IRVIN PELLETIER
Kimouski

CLAUDE PINARD
Saint-Maurice

CAROLE POIRIER
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

DANIEL RATTHÉ
Blainville

FRANÇOIS REBELLO
La Prairie

LORRAINE RICHARD
Duplessis

MONIQUE RICHARD
Marguerite-D'Youville

GILLES ROBERT
Prevost

SYLVAIN SIMARD
Richelieu

BERTRAND ST-ARNAUD
Chambly

MATHIEU TRAVERSY
Terrebonne

GUILLAUME TOUBIAY
Mason

DENIS TROTTIER
Rosemont

DAVE TURCOTTE
Saint-Jean

ANDRÉ VILLENEUVE
Berthier

VACANT
Vachon

GERARD DELTELL
Second opposition Leader
Chauveau

SYLVIE ROY
Second Opposition House Leader
Lotbinière

FRANÇOIS BONNARDEL
Shefford

JANVIER GRONDIN
Robert-Baldwin

ERIC CAIRE
La Peltrie

AMIR KHADIR
Mercier

MARC PICARD
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

By-elections

A by-election is held in an electoral division for the purpose of filling a vacancy arising from the resignation or death of a Member or further to a legal ruling. When a seat becomes vacant, a government order instituting the holding of an election must be forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer within six months of the first day of vacancy.

In accordance with a government order dated May 20, 2009, by-elections were held on June 22, 2009, in the electoral divisions of Marguerite-Bourgeoys and Rivière-du-Loup, at the outcome of which Mr. Clément Gignac (QLP) and Mr. Jean D'Amour (QLP) were declared elected by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Clément Gignac
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

Jean D'Amour
Rivière-du-Loup

On September 21, 2009, another by-election was held—this time in accordance with a government order dated August 19, 2009—in the electoral division of Rousseau, at the outcome of which Mr. Nicolas Marceau (PQ) was declared elected by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Nicolas Marceau
Rousseau

Changes of political affiliation

Two Members changed political affiliation in 2009–2010:

Éric Caire — La Peltrie
First elected: March 26, 2007
Date of change of affiliation: November 6, 2009
From Action démocratique du Québec to independent

Marc Picard — Chutes-de-la-Chaudière
First elected: April 14, 2003
Date of change of affiliation: November 6, 2009
From Action démocratique du Québec to independent

Parliamentary anniversaries

Seventeen Members of the National Assembly were honoured at ceremonies on May 28 and November 25, 2009, to celebrate 10 to 30 years of parliamentary life. Various guests attended the events, which were presided by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, in the Legislative Council Chamber.

Line Beauchamp
Bourassa-Sauvé
10 years

Stéphane Bédard
Chicoutimi
10 years

Jean Charest
Sherbrooke
10 years

Claude Cousineau
Bertrand
10 years

Jacques P. Dupuis
Saint-Laurent
10 years

François Legault
Rousseau
10 years

Nicole Léger
Pointe-aux-Trembles
10 years

Agnès Maltais
Taschereau
10 years

Yvon Marcoux
Vaudreuil
10 years

Nathalie Normandeau
Bonaventure
10 years

David Whissell
Argenteuil
11 years

Claude Béchard
Kamouraska-Témiscouata
12 years

Danielle Doyer
Matapédia
15 years

Fatima Houda-Pepin
La Pinière
15 years

Geoffrey Kelley
Jacques-Cartier
15 years

Pierre Marsan
Robert-Baldwin
15 years

François Ouimet
Marquette
15 years

Lawrence S. Bergman
D'Arcy-McGee
15 years

Sylvain Simard
Richelieu
15 years

Henri-François Gautrin
Verdun
20 years

Norman MacMillan
Papineau
20 years

Yvon Vallières
Richmond
31 years

The President frequently welcomes public figures to the National Assembly. On November 26, 2009, astronaut Julie Payette presented him with a wonderful gift: a photomontage depicting the Québec flag that accompanied her on her space shuttle mission in July 2009. After orbiting the earth 248 times and travelling 10,537,748 km, the fleurdelisé ended its journey at the Parliament Building in a ceremony attended by parliamentarians and dignitaries.

SEATING PLAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS AT MARCH 31, 2010

◇ Leader of the Official Opposition

□ Official Opposition House Leader

△ Chief Opposition Official Whip

◈ Leader of the Second Opposition

▥ Second Opposition House Leader

□ Other Members

● Vice President

◆ Premier

■ Government House Leader

▲ Chief Government Whip

□ Ministers

* Public servants

Recipients of the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly

In 2009–2010 the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, awarded the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly to public figures from all walks of life, particularly the arts. The medals were awarded to individuals deserving of recognition from all parliamentarians for a variety of reasons.

April 28, 2009

Beau Dommage
Mr. Pierre Bertrand
Ms. Marie-Michèle Desrosiers
Mr. Réal Desrosiers
Mr. Michel Hinton
Mr. Pierre Huet
Mr. Robert Léger
Mr. Michel Rivard
For the 35th anniversary of musical group Beau Dommage

June 9, 2009

Mr. François Alabrune
To mark his departure at the end of his term as Consul General of the French Republic in Québec City (2004–2009)

September 23, 2009

Ms. Ingrid Betancourt
For her commitment to democracy, human rights and freedom of expression

September 28, 2009

Mr. Jean-Pierre Ferland
For his contribution to Québec culture and his promotion of the French language

Did you know?

At the National Assembly, four medals may be awarded in recognition of an individual's particular merit. They are the President's Medal, the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly, the Medal of the National Assembly and the MNA's Medal. Each of these distinctions is a reproduction of an original medal engraved by artist Serge Santucci, with the material depending on the type of medal.

The **President's Medal** is awarded only to public figures deserving of recognition by all parliamentarians at the National Assembly and the general public.

The **Medal of Honour of the National Assembly** is awarded to public figures deserving of recognition by all parliamentarians. The President of the National Assembly or the President's representative awards the medal in a ceremony that may be held outside the precinct of the Parliament Building.

The **Medal of the National Assembly** is awarded exclusively by parliamentarians to individuals they believe are deserving of special recognition. It may also be awarded as an official gift to other elected officials or public figures during parliamentary missions outside Québec or official receptions at the National Assembly.

The **MNA's Medal** is awarded to each Member of the National Assembly elected or re-elected to a new legislature or following a by-election.

October 22, 2009

Mr. Patrice Brisebois
To celebrate his career as a hockey player and his involvement in the community

November 12, 2009

Broue
Mr. Michel Côté
Mr. Marcel Gauthier
Mr. Marc Messier
Mr. Claude Meunier
Ms. Francine Ruel
Mr. Louis Saïa
Mr. Jean-Pierre Plante
For the 30th anniversary of the creation of the play *Broue*

November 26, 2009

Mr. Michel Louvain
To celebrate an artistic career spanning over 50 years

May 7, 2009

Mr. Luc Plamondon
To mark the 30th anniversary of the rock opera *Starmania*

May 21, 2009

Mr. Bernard Derome
To celebrate his career as a journalist

March 25, 2010

Mr. Dany Laferrière
To celebrate his contribution to Québec literature

March 31, 2010

Mr. Luc Robitaille
To celebrate his career as a player in the National Hockey League

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

SCHEDULE OF SITTINGS

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a parliamentary work calendar divided into two annual periods during which the Assembly meets: one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring session runs from the second Tuesday in February, with 16 weeks of ordinary hours of meeting followed by two weeks of extended hours of meeting. The fall session runs from the third Tuesday in September, with 10 weeks of ordinary hours of meeting followed by two weeks of extended hours of meeting.

The following table shows the schedule of the National Assembly by time of year.

Schedule of standing committee sittings*

Period	Day	Time Routine Proceedings	Time Orders of the Day
During ordinary hours of meeting	Tuesday	1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.	3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
During extended hours of meeting	Tuesday	1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.	3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday	9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

** The Assembly may sit on Mondays on motion by the Government House Leader.*

Outside the periods provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly holds extraordinary sittings at the request of the Premier. This request is made to the President or, in the President's absence, to the Secretary General. Standing committees may sit at any time during the year, from Monday to Friday, at the times set in the Standing Orders. The Assembly and committees may not sit during weeks set aside for work in electoral districts.

Did you know?

On September 14, 2009, due to the passing of the parliamentary reform, changes were made to the Assembly's hours of meeting so as to help Members strike a better balance between their parliamentary work and work in their electoral districts. Parliamentary work now begins in the afternoon on Tuesdays, with an evening session on the same day to make up for the hours lost that morning.

Given the longer sessional periods, extended hours of meeting last no longer than two weeks. Moreover, sittings now end no later than 10:30 p.m. And to better plan committee and other work related to Members' duties, the time of meetings will remain the same all year long. This means that the Assembly may proceed with Routine Proceedings—which include Oral Questions and Answers—at the start of each sitting.

WORK PERFORMED AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Sittings of the National Assembly and standing committees

In 2009–2010, 88 sittings were held at the National Assembly and 483 in standing committee. The table below provides a breakdown:

	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	SITTINGS	HOURS	SITTINGS	HOURS
April	11	33 hr. 14 min.	59	187 hr. 57 min.
May	13	46 hr. 53 min.	63	189 hr. 52 min.
June	11	67 hr. 39 min.	65	186 hr. 13 min.
July	-	-	0	2 hr. 35 min.
August	-	-	3	12 hr. 33 min.
September	9	38 hr. 30 min.	53	183 hr. 59 min.
October	10	42 hr. 28 min.	49	125 hr. 55 min.
November	13	45 hr. 49 min.	58	146 hr. 17 min.
December	4	13 hr. 20 min.	13	33 hr. 56 min.
January	-	-	18	85 hr. 34 min.
February	6	20 hr. 06 min.	54	152 hr. 37 min.
March	11	43 hr. 54 min.	48	120 hr. 55 min.
TOTAL	88	351 hr. 53 min.	483	1,428 hr. 23 min.

Conduct of a sitting at the National Assembly

An Assembly sitting consists of two distinct periods: Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day.

Routine Proceedings	Orders of the Day
Routine Proceedings are divided into 11 items of business devoted to information provided by the Government to the National Assembly. Oral Questions and Answers takes place on every sitting day. The items of business are considered in the following order:	Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at any stage of consideration. At this time, the National Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate. The five items of business for this period are considered in the following order:
0.1 Statements by Members	1. Business Having Precedence
1. Statements by Ministers	2. Urgent Debates
2. Introduction of Bills	3. Debates on Reports from Committees
3. Tablings	4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper
3.1 Oral Answers to Petitions	5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition
4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations	
5. Oral Questions and Answers	
6. Deferred Divisions	
7. Motions Without Notice	
8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees	
9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly	

Oral Questions and Answers is without doubt the most familiar item of business to citizens. During this 45 minute period, Members can question Ministers on current matters of public interest that fall within their or the Government's purview.

Forty-nine hours and four minutes were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers

The number of questions asked can be broken down as follows:

- Main questions: **776**
- Supplementary questions: **1,281**

A closer look at Routine Proceedings

Statements by Members – This item of business, which signals the beginning of a sitting, is an opportunity for Members, including ministers, to make a one-minute statement on a matter close to their heart. Up to ten Members may make a statement per session.

Statements by Ministers – Ministers may make statements to the Assembly on any subject they deem appropriate, e.g., the announcement of a government policy or the Government's reaction to a particular event. Opposition groups then comment on these statements.

Introduction of Bills – Bills may be introduced during Routine Proceedings. Members do not discuss the content at this point; they simply allow bills to be submitted for consideration during subsequent stages of the legislative process.

A closer look at Orders of the Day

Business Having Precedence – As the name indicates, this business takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency. The opening speech of the session, delivered by the Premier, and the speeches by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives during the subsequent debate rank first among business having precedence. Other business having precedence includes the budget speech and non-confidence motions.

Urgent Debates – Any Member may request an urgent debate. The President authorizes such a debate if he/she deems that the request concerns a specific matter of particular importance that is under the authority of the National Assembly and cannot be discussed otherwise.

Debates on Reports from Committees – Committee reports that contain recommendations are entered on the Order Paper and Notices the day after they are tabled in the National Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days.

Other Business Standing on the Order Paper and Notices – At this time, the National Assembly goes through the various stages of studying bills, notably passage in principle, consideration of reports from committees that have examined bills and the passage of bills.

Only a Minister may introduce a bill having financial implications. However, barring this exception, any Member has the right to introduce a bill to the National Assembly. Members who are not ministers may use the Assembly's legal and legislative services to have it drafted.

Did you know?

The *Journal des débats* is a parliamentary publication that has provided a full account of the proceedings of the National Assembly and its committees since 1964. In 2009 it turned 45, with over 700,000 pages to its name.

Student Page program

Left to right: Louis Massicotte, holder of the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions; Sylvio Normand, dean of the Faculty of Law; Gilles Jourdain, page service coordinator; François Côté, Secretary General; François Blais, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences; Véronique Meloche, student page; Estelle Lacourse-Dontigny, student page; Pier Tremblay, student page; Chantale Martineau, assistant to the page service coordinator; Julie Gingras, student page; Camille Gagné-Raynauld, student page; Élise Cabanne, student page; Stéphanie Turcotte, student page; Stéphanie Goheil, student page; Karine Gaudreault, student page; and Nicole Lacasse, Associate Vice Rector of Academic and International Activities

A program has been developed in conjunction with Université Laval to give undergraduate students an opportunity to earn valuable work experience while learning more about Québec's parliamentary institutions.

Fourteen students in law, politics, public affairs and international relations took up their duties in August 2009. The internship and directed research are worth six credits toward their degree programs.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

On April 21, 2009, the National Assembly completed a major exercise in parliamentary reform by unanimously adopting a series of changes to its Standing Orders. Although it falls short of a complete overhaul of the National Assembly's Standing Orders and conduct of proceedings, this reform rings in major changes in the pursuit of four objectives: fostering greater Member autonomy and initiative, helping Members work more effectively, reasserting democratic balance in parliamentary proceedings and bringing the Parliament closer to citizens.

Each of the reform's measures is explored in greater detail below:

The reform fosters greater autonomy and initiative on the part of Members by:

- Creating a new item of business for Routine Proceedings known as Statements by Members.
- Introducing a vote on the Government's general policy at the end of the Premier's opening speech at the beginning of a parliamentary session.
- Relaxing committee travel rules.
- Passing new rules to elect the President of the National Assembly by secret ballot.

The reform helps Members work more effectively by:

- Making changes to sessional periods and hours of meeting so that they are spread over a longer time period and include weeks set aside for work in electoral districts.
- Reviewing committee terms of reference to fairly share the workload among them (some committees have had their names changed, others have been dissolved or newly created).
- Increasing the number of committees that may sit at the same time.

The reform reasserts democratic balance in parliamentary proceedings by:

- Replacing the motion to suspend the rules of procedure, commonly called the "guillotine," by a new procedure known as exceptional procedure. Exceptional procedure may be employed for only one bill at a time, and all bills must be given minimum consideration.
- Holding standing committee hearings for individuals appointed by the National Assembly on the Premier's recommendation.

The National Assembly is building closer ties with citizens by:

- Putting renewed emphasis on petitioners' rights by introducing online petitions and obliging the Government to respond to petitions submitted to the National Assembly.
- Creating new ways for the public to signal their interest in attending public committee hearings or submit briefs electronically (online consultations are now one of the ways the Government may consult with citizens).
- Introducing videoconferencing to allow individuals who cannot travel to parliamentary hearings to make their voices heard.

Finally, in the wake of this parliamentary reform, the National Assembly unanimously adopted a document entitled "Recognition of the Action démocratique du Québec as a Parliamentary Group and Allocation of Various Measures Among the Members Sitting in Opposition for the Duration of the 39th Legislature." Among other things, this document establishes new criteria for recognizing a parliamentary group for the duration of the 39th Legislature.

Motions without notice
In 2009–2010, 284 motions without notice were carried. They dealt with subjects such as

- Mr. Dany Laferrière's contribution to Québec literature
- The 100th anniversary of the *Le Devoir* newspaper
- International Literacy Day

STANDING COMMITTEES

A considerable portion of parliamentary work is carried out in standing committees, where Members exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions. These committees bring together Members of the various political parties that make up the National Assembly and are responsible for examining any matter under their authority. In committee, the public can express its views during public consultations on bills or important societal issues. In committee, Members also analyze bills in depth, examine the activities of

Committee chair

The committee chair is a Member of a parliamentary group and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. The chair organizes and chairs the proceedings of the committee, takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Committee vice-chair

The committee vice-chair is a Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chair and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. The vice-chair assists the chair in his/her duties and replaces him/her when necessary.

departments and government agencies, study the Government's budget and may, on their own initiative, elect to investigate any other matter under their authority.

There are eleven permanent standing committees, nine of which are sector-based. A Member of the Official Opposition chairs the Committee on Public Administration, and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly.

Schedule of standing committee sittings

The parliamentary reform adopted in spring 2009 led to changes in the scheduling of committee sittings. For example, since September 14, 2009, committee members may meet until 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings during ordinary hours of meeting and do not sit after 10:30 p.m. during extended hours of meeting.

Schedule of Standing Committee Sittings*

Date	Day	Time
Outside National Assembly hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday to Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
During ordinary hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
During extended hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

** Committees may not sit during Routine Proceedings.*

Terms of reference and composition of the standing committees

Subsequent to the parliamentary reform, the names and terms of reference of certain committees have been altered, notably in order to better share the workload between committees.

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Standing Orders and conduct of proceedings, coordination of work and other committees

Members as at March 31, 2010:

The President of the National Assembly: Mr. Yvon Vallières (Richmond)

The vice-presidents of the National Assembly: Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)
Mr. François Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest)

Parliamentary group leaders: Mr. Jacques P. Dupuis (Saint-Laurent)
Mr. Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

Parliamentary group whips: Mr. Pierre Moreau (Châteauguay)
Ms. Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)

Committee chairs:
Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin)
Ms. Marie Malavoy (Taillon)
Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette)
Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)
Ms. Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Mr. Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier)
Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)
Mr. Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
Mr. Sylvain Simard (Richelieu)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Examination of financial commitments, accountability and the Auditor General

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Mr. Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ
Vice-chairs: Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) QLP
Mr. François Bonnardel (Shefford) ADQ

QLP
Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup)
Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)
Mr. Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun)
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier)
Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf)
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)

PQ
Mr. Daniel Ratthé (Blainville)
Mr. Mathieu Traversy (Terrebonne)
Mr. Guillaume Tremblay (Masson)

The importance of parliamentary control

Parliamentary control activities represent close to 20% of the work carried out in committee, as the following numbers indicate:

Parliamentary control		
Government estimates of expenditure	188 hr. 15 min.	13.2%
Interpellations	27 hr. 39 min.	1.9%
Oversight of agencies	10 hr. 33 min.	0.7%
Accountability	38 hr. 52 min.	2.8%
Subtotal		18.6 %
Consideration of public bills	825 hr. 56 min.	57.8%
Consideration of private bills	8 hr. 54 min.	0.6%
Other orders of the National Assembly	177 hr. 45 min.	12.4%
Delegated legislation	10 hr. 36 min.	0.7%
Other orders set out in an act or under the Standing Orders	58 hr.	4.1%
Orders of initiative	38 hr. 03 min.	2.7%
General organization and election of chairs and vice-chairs	43 hr. 50 min.	3.1%
TOTAL		100%

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture, fisheries, food, energy and natural resources

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) QLP
Vice-chair: Mr. Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice) PQ

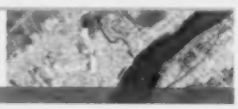
QLP
Mr. Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)
Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Mr. Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé)
Mr. Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)

PQ
Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville)
Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière)
Mr. Denis Trottier (Roberval)

ADQ
Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)

QS
Mr. Amir Khadir (Mercier)

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN



Land use planning and development, municipal affairs, housing, sports and recreation, local and regional community development

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Ms. Marie Malavoy (Taillon) PQ
Vice-chair: Mr. Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet) QLP

QLP
Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau)
Mr. Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé)
Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)
Mr. Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé)
Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger)

PQ
Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)
Mr. Luc Ferland (Ungava)
Mr. Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)

ADQ
Mr. Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord)

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Culture, education, vocational training, higher education and communications

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) QLP
Vice-chair: Mr. Pierre Curzi (Borduas) PQ

QLP
Mr. Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)
Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)
Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)
Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

PQ
Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Drummond)
Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Mr. Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe)

ADQ
Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Industry, trade, tourism, labour, manpower, science, technology and income security

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette) QLP
Vice-chair: Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères) PQ

QLP
Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska)
Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup)
Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)
Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)
Mr. Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé)
Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf)

PQ
Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois)
Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)
Ms. Monique Richard (Marguerite-D'Youville)

ADQ
Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Finance, budget, government administration, public service, revenue, services, supply and pension plans

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Mr. Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides) QLP
Vice-chair: Mr. Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) PQ

QLP
Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)
Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau)
Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)
Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Mr. David Whissell (Argenteuil)

PQ
Mr. Jean-Martin Aussant (Nicolet-Yamaska)
Mr. Nicolas Marceau (Rousseau)
Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)

ADQ
Mr. François Bonnardel (Shefford)

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Chairmanship of the Executive Council, justice, public security, constitution, aboriginal affairs and international and intergovernmental affairs

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) PQ
Vice-chair: Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) QLP

QLP
Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)
Mr. Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier)
Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)
Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette)
Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)
Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

PQ
Ms. Louise Beaudoin (Rosemont)
Mr. Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean)
Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette)

ADQ
Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

Temporary chair

A Member appointed by the President of the National Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chair or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity.

Temporary chairs as at March 31, 2010:

QLP

Mr. Daniel Bernard (Roberval)
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier)
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)
Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger)
Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)
Mr. David Whissel (Argenteuil)

PQ

Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)
Mr. Pascal Bérubé (Matane)
Mr. Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean)
Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière)
Ms. Lisette Lapointe (Crémazie)
Mr. Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)
Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)
Mr. Denis Trottier (Roberval)

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Citizen relations, cultural communities, immigration, status of women, family, seniors, youth and consumer protection

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) **QLP**
Vice-chair: Mr. Maka Kotto (Bourget) **PQ**

QLP
Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)
Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)
Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette)
Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)

PQ
Mr. Benoit Charette (Deux-Montagnes)
Ms. Lisette Lapointe (Crémazie)
Mr. Gilles Robert (Prévost)

ADQ
Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Health and social and community services

Members as at March 31, 2010:

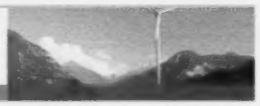
Chair: Mr. Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) **QLP**
Vice-chair: Ms. Louise Beaudoin (Rosemont) **PQ**

QLP
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger)
Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)
Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)

PQ
Mr. René Gauvreau (Groulx)
Ms. Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)
Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)

ADQ
Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Transportation, environment, wildlife and parks

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Ms. Danielle Doyer (Matapédia) **PQ**
Vice-chair: Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) **QLP**

QLP
Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau)
Mr. Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé)
Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier)
Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)

PQ
Mr. Etienne-Alexis Boucher (Johnson)
Mr. Scott McKay (L'Assomption)
Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier)

ADQ
Mr. Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON DYING WITH DIGNITY

This committee was created by a motion carried by the National Assembly on December 4, 2009.

Members as at March 31, 2010:

Chair: Mr. Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) **QLP**
Vice-chair: Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette) **PQ**

QLP
Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)
Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette)
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)
Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)
Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)

PQ
Mr. Benoit Charette (Deux-Montagnes)
Ms. Lisette Lapointe (Crémazie)
Ms. Monique Richard (Marguerite-D'Youville)

ADQ
Ms. Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

QS
Mr. Amir Khadir (Mercier)

Creation of a select committee on dying with dignity

On December 4, 2009, the National Assembly unanimously adopted a motion creating a select committee to investigate the issue of dying with dignity. This committee will hold a general consultation, including possible travelling sessions, and an online consultation on this important issue of the day.

The same motion tasked the Committee on Health and Social Services (CHSS) with holding special consultations with experts in order to clarify the issues before the select committee begins its work. These consultations were held in February and March of 2010 and addressed such matters as end-of-life conditions and care, the current legal situation and a possible legal framework for euthanasia.

CHSS members have been mandated to produce a discussion paper to help the public take part in the general consultation slated for late summer 2010.

Orders of initiative

In 2009–2010 the members of the various committees took the initiative to examine issues affecting numerous areas of activity. Organizing such mandates requires many meetings during which members prepare consultation and background papers, hear experts, plan public hearings and draft final reports that may contain observations, conclusions and recommendations for the Government.

Select committees

The National Assembly has the power to set up select committees. It determines their mandate and designates their members. It may also set the length of their term and appoint committee chairs and vice-chairs. Unless otherwise decided by the Assembly, standing committee rules also apply to select committees. All select committees cease to exist the moment they table their report in the National Assembly.

The mandates of the standing committees

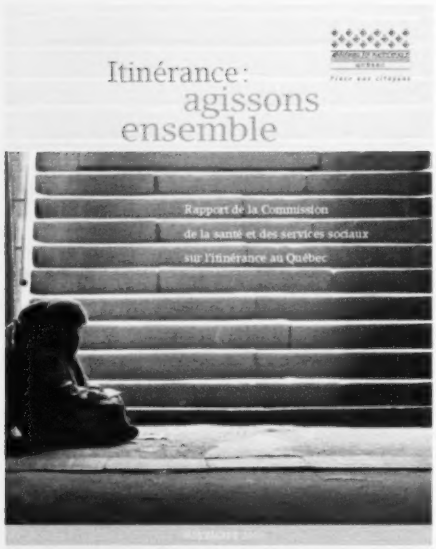
Sector-based standing committees may carry out three types of mandate: orders of initiative, orders of reference and statutory orders. The list of mandates carried out by the standing committees in 2009–2010 can be found in the appendix.

Did you know?

Aside from this select committee, only four other select committees have ever been set up by the National Assembly since the adoption of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly in 1984: a select committee on vocational training (1995), a select committee on a new management framework for government (1999), a select committee on choosing a site for the future Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (2005) and a select committee on the *Election Act* (2005).

Orders of reference

At the request of the National Assembly, the committees examine bills, estimates of expenditure and any other matters they may be asked to study. These are known as "orders of reference."



On November 4, 2009, the Committee on Health and Social Services tabled its report on homelessness in Québec, *Itinérance: agissons ensemble*. The report was the fruit of several months of work during which the committee heard over 100 individuals and organizations at public hearings in Gatineau, Montréal, Québec City and Trois-Rivières. This order of initiative was begun under the 38th Legislature in 2008 and continued in March 2009 by Members of the 39th Legislature. The committee's 33 unanimous recommendations included calls for a policy and interministerial plan on homelessness, improved cooperation between public and community networks, a suitable and recurring funding program for homeless organizations and a better balance between prosecution and social work.

Orders of initiative

On their own initiative, committees examine draft regulations and regulations, the direction, operation and management of public and ministerial agencies, petitions and any other matter of public interest.

The Committee on Transportation and the Environment assigned itself an order of initiative regarding cyanobacteria in Québec's lakes. A consultation paper was published in June 2009 in anticipation of the special consultations and public hearings the committee plans to hold in 2010. An online consultation was also launched in October 2009 to allow the public to take part in greater numbers. More specifically, the committee is looking at governance, knowledge and the sharing of information, septic systems, agricultural waste, the use of fertilizer and riverbank and floodplain management in relation to cyanobacteria.

The Committee on Public Finance held public hearings on February 2 and 3, 2010, as part of its order of initiative on the indexation of pension plans in the public and broader public sectors. The committee heard some ten individuals and agencies and will continue its work in 2010.

Standing committees also tasked themselves with the oversight of agencies in order to study the direction, operation and management of public agencies under their purview. Among others, the Committee on Labour and the Economy heard the Committee on Labour Relations and the Committee on Transportation and the Environment heard the Commission des transports du Québec and the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement.

Orders of reference

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

The standing committees examined 77 bills of which a complete list may be consulted in the appendix. For all bills submitted for study by the standing committees, 4,930 sections were examined and 684 amendments were adopted out of the 784 amendments introduced.

Special consultations

Special consultations are limited to individuals and organizations chosen by the committee or by the Assembly owing to their knowledge or expertise regarding the matter under consideration.

Public consultations

In 2009–2010, 685 groups and individuals came before the committees to give their opinions on the various matters on which consultations were held. The standing committees received 671 briefs. These consultations enable the parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from a matter under consideration.

General consultation

General consultations are open to the population at large. They must be preceded by a public notice published in selected newspapers and in the *Québec Official Gazette*, inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matter under consideration to submit a brief to the committee. Citizens may also send a request to be heard without submitting a brief. Public hearings are then held before the committee, with a period of no longer than 45 minutes set aside for all requests without a brief to be heard.

For instance, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources was tasked with leading a general consultation on Bill 57, the *Forest Occupancy Act*. It heard over 70 individuals and organizations in September and October 2009 and received 72 briefs on the bill that will institute a forest regime whose main purpose is to ensure the sustainability of our forest resources and implement sustainable forest management. Further to a recommendation adopted at the end of this consultation, the bill was reprinted and renamed the *Sustainable Forest Development Act*.

The Committee on Institutions held a public consultation and an online consultation on the *Draft bill to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and parental authority*. Forty-odd individuals and agencies appeared before the committee in January and February 2010. In parallel to these public hearings, over 250 citizens and agencies completed the online questionnaire posted on the National Assembly website. All the comments provided the committee with plenty of food for thought on the draft bill, which seeks to adapt the law to meet the adoption needs of families and society as a whole.

The following bills were also submitted for public consultation:

- Bills 38 and 44, *An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level* and *the Act respecting the Université du Québec with respect to governance* and *An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act with respect to governance*
- Bill 48, *Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly*
- Bill 60, *An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act and other legislative provisions*

- Bill 63, *Business Corporations Act*
- Bill 73, *An Act to provide for measures to fight crime in the construction industry*
- Bill 78, *An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to electoral representation and political party financing rules and to amend other legislative provisions*

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2009–2010

For a three-week period in April and May, the standing committees considered the estimates of expenditure of the Government, as stipulated in Standing Order 282. By the conclusion of their mandate, the committees had devoted 188 hours to examining $66 billion in estimates of expenditure allocated to Government ministries and agencies.

Hearings on the results of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

The Committee on Public Finance was given the mandate of holding public hearings on the results of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. Over six days of hearings in May 2009, committee members heard and questioned former heads of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, its main depositors and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Raymond Bachand, on the causes and impact of the losses posted by the Caisse in fiscal 2008. The hearings, which began on March 13, 2009, concluded with an appearance by the Minister of Finance, Ms. Monique Jérôme-Forget.

Examination of Hydro-Québec's 2009–2013 Strategic Plan

The National Assembly also tasked the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources with examining Hydro-Québec's 2009–2013 Strategic Plan. The state-owned company appeared before the committee on October 6 and 7, 2009, to discuss its strategic vision, touching on energy efficiency, renewable energy and technology innovations.

Did you know?

The Committees Secretariat issues an annual statistical report on the work of the standing committees. The 2008–2009 report may be consulted on the National Assembly website at assnat.qc.ca in the *Publications* section.

Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Some orders of the standing committees come from an act or regulation, others from the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

On February 2, 3 and 4, 2010, the Committee on Health and Social Services heard directors from health and social services agencies in the Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord, Saguenay–Lac-St-Jean, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Abitibi-Témiscamingue regions, as well as the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services. These hearings were an opportunity to examine the agencies' annual management reports under Section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*.

For its part the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain examined the financial statements, activity report and development plan of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec. It also gave consideration to the regulation for residential swimming pool safety under Section 1 of the *Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act*. At the end of its examination, the committee formulated recommendations to the Government.

Interpellation

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, every Member of the Opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he or she is officially responsible. The interpellation is held at a meeting of the appropriate standing committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon. One interpellation may be held each week during the periods in which the National Assembly ordinarily meets (excepting during intensive session, when none may be held). During 2008–2009 the Government's ministers were interpellated 14 times in standing committees.

The Committee on Public Administration

The Committee on Public Administration calls public administrators to account on their management. It carries out this mandate by inviting the deputy ministers and the chief executive officers of public bodies to come before it to answer the questions of parliamentarians on their annual management reports or to discuss the observations contained in the Auditor General's reports.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee must also examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding $25,000 granted to departments and public agencies whose estimates of expenditure are voted on by the Assembly. In scrutinizing these expenditures, the Committee ensures itself of their advisability, the observance of government rules and standards governing the granting of contracts and subsidies and the equitable allocation of public funds.

During the 2009–2010 fiscal year, the Committee on Public Administration tabled three reports to the National Assembly. These 21st, 22nd and 23rd reports on the accountability of the deputy ministers and the managers of organizations contain 44 unanimous recommendations on such topics as government interventions in the mining sector, monitoring of the Québec Health Record project, Cegep business relations with partners and performance, issuing of permits and oversight at the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux du Québec.

The contribution of the Research Department to exercising parliamentary control

This parliamentary department helps Members on standing committees carry out orders of initiatives and control. In 2009–2010 it prepared over 100 analysis and background reports and was involved in researching and drafting a number of papers that were published by standing committees.

Numerous tools were used to assist standing committees with reporting duties, which derive in part from the implementation of the Public Administration Act. In particular the department analyzed annual management reports from ministries and agencies subject to the Committee on Public Administration's powers of oversight. It acts similarly for all agencies and government corporations that report to sectorial standing committees.

On February 4, 2010, the committee heard the Secretary General and clerk of the Executive Council and the Secretary General and head of administration from the Lieutenant-Governor's Office as part of its follow-up to the recommendations respecting the use of public funds by the former Lieutenant-Governor of Québec contained in its 21st report. The committee also held hearings on the management of contracts involving a component of risk at the Ministère des Transports.

ORGANIZATIONS REPORTING TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Nomination of an interim Lobbyists Commissioner

On June 30, 2009, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, appointed Mr. François Casgrain interim Lobbyists Commissioner. He replaced Mr. André Côté, whose term ended on July 5, 2009.

This appointment took effect on July 6, 2009, for a period of no more than six months. However, the term was extended under Bill 80—a decision that was sanctioned on December 4, 2009—until a commissioner is named or until June 11, 2010, whichever comes first.

Four individuals are appointed by the National Assembly. This allows them to remain independent as they exercise their functions.

The Chief Electoral Officer oversees the application of the *Election Act*, *the Referendum Act* and part of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* and also chairs the Commission de la représentation électorale, which is charged with drawing up Québec's electoral boundaries. The Chief Electoral Officer must be chosen from among the electors. He or she is appointed for a seven-year renewable term.

The Québec Ombudsman prevents and corrects errors or injustices committed against any individual or group of individuals in connection with a Québec government ministry or agency. The Ombudsman also intervenes in cases where citizens feel their rights have been breached or ignored by an establishment in the health and social services network. He or she is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

The Auditor General fosters, through audit, parliamentary control over public funds and other public property, and informs Members about how the Government and its agencies and enterprises manage public funds. He or she is appointed for ten years.

The Lobbyists Commissioner is tasked with monitoring and controlling the lobbying of holders of public office. The Commissioner develops a code of conduct for lobbyists and conducts investigations and examinations of all violations of the *Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act* or the code of conduct. He or she is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

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In democratic systems based on the separation of powers, parliaments conduct their international relations independently and in respect of political pluralism. The President of the National Assembly has the responsibility of representing the institution in international activities, whose non-partisan nature is ensured by having delegations composed of Members from the various political groups represented at the National Assembly. Over the years the Assembly has developed an extensive network of multilateral and bilateral interparliamentary relationships.

The National Assembly's interparliamentary and international relations are based on four major objectives:

- Reinforce the effectiveness of the parliamentary institution and elected officials in their duties as legislators, overseers of government actions, defenders of the public interest and representatives
- Improve the position of the National Assembly on the international scene and its institutional reach within interparliamentary networks
- Actively participate in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity
- Broaden the reach of Québec society, particularly by promoting its sectors of excellence.

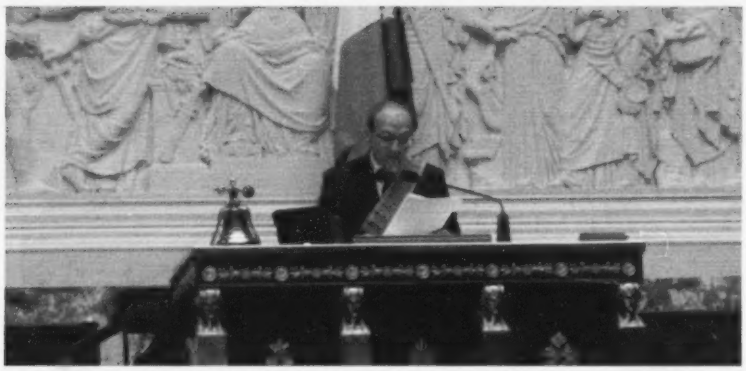
MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF)

The APF is an important forum for discussing themes that are close to the hearts of elected officials in Québec, including culture, education and parliamentary democracy.

President Vallières accompanied by Gabonese parliamentarian and former president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie Jules Aristide Bourdes Ogouliguende, standing in here for Mr. Guy Nzouba-Ndama, President of the National Assembly of Gabon and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie

The 35th session of the APF was held in Paris from July 2 to 6, 2009. The President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Yvon Vallières, was elected President of the organization for a two-year term and awarded the highest distinction of the Ordre de la pléiade: the Grand-Croix. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Vallières undertook to mobilize French-speaking parliamentarians to pursue the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. He also stressed the need to bolster the APF's political role with other member bodies of La Francophonie in order to consolidate peace, democracy and human rights in the French-speaking world.



Mr. Yvon Vallières, President of the National Assembly of Québec, addresses the plenary assembly of the APF during its 35th session held at the National Assembly of the French Republic in Paris in July 2009

APF

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie): Founded in 1967, composed of 77 parliaments and interparliamentary organizations from all over the world (National Assembly: full member since 1974)

At the end of the proceedings, in addition to resolutions on HIV/AIDS, the financial and food crises and sustainable development, in a plenary session the French-speaking parliamentarians adopted the "Paris Declaration on Parliamentary Democracy," a paper setting out the criteria for evaluating the democratic character of the parliaments of La Francophonie.

For its part the Americas Regional Assembly held its 25th session in Halifax from September 16 to 20, 2009. The Québec Branch gave a presentation on heritage conservation.

Earlier in 2009 a Québec Member took part in an electoral mission led by the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF) as a representative of the Americas region during the presidential election of July 18, 2009, in Mauritania. Québec Members hosted parliamentary seminars on parliaments' powers of control and information in Bamako, Mali, on September 25 and 26, 2009, and in Bujumbura, Burundi, on November 26 and 27, 2009. Québec parliamentarians also represented the APF at the World Trade Organization Public Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, from September 28 to 30, 2009, as well as the second Conference of Parties to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was held in Paris from June 15 to 18, 2009.

In addition President Vallières chaired the APF Executive Meeting in N'Djamena, Chad, from February 2 to 4, 2010. At his behest it was agreed to hold an interparliamentary conference on the diversity of cultural expressions in Québec City in February 2011. The APF Executive also set up a fund to assist the Haitian Parliament and, on the initiative of the Québec Branch, it adopted a resolution asking branches to call upon their own governments to get involved in rebuilding the country.

CPA

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Founded in 1911, composed of 175 parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 53 countries forming the Commonwealth (National Assembly: full member since 1933)

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

At the meeting of the Canadian Area Council in Toronto on July 20, 2009, the Québec Branch successfully proposed the creation of an area council working group to examine the issue of modernizing the CPA. The group, headed by the chair of the CPA's Canada Branch, is made up of representatives from assemblies in Alberta, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Québec. It met twice in 2009 and set out an action plan to meet its objectives.

COPA

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas: Created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas

CSG

Council of State Governments: Organization created in 1933, composed of representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial powers from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly: international associated member since 1995)

The National Assembly also took part in the 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, which was held in Arusha, Tanzania, from September 28 to October 6, 2009, where the delegate from the National Assembly gave a presentation at the working meeting on climate change. A Member of the National Assembly was also present to represent the Canada region of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network and outlined the measures taken to eradicate domestic violence in Québec and the rest of Canada.

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

The National Assembly took part in two COPA electoral observation missions in 2009: one in Mexico in July and a second in Bolivia in December. The electoral observation mission program, which has been in place since 2005, aims to provide an on-the-ground look at how preparations for elections are coming along and to observe the conduct of the election on election day. Missions are organized by the Québec Secretariat of COPA, which is headquartered at the National Assembly, in conjunction with the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

Delegations of COPA parliamentarians had been deployed to the capital cities of Mexico and Bolivia in previous elections. This year's missions were therefore an opportunity to gauge the extent to which recommendations made to election officials to improve the electoral process had been put into practice.

A delegation of parliamentarians from the National Assembly took part in the 9th General Assembly of COPA from September 15 to 19 in Salta, Argentina, where various issues were addressed, including the global economic crisis, the fight to keep children from dropping out of school and the political crisis in the Honduras. The 8th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas also took place as part of this General Assembly, set to the theme of violence against women. The network's President visited the National Assembly on June 2 to 4 to gear up for this important meeting as the Québec Secretariat of COPA prepared to assume network secretariat duties.

American Interparliamentary Organizations (ERC, CSG, NCSL)

In 2009 the National Assembly presented Québec's point of view on the *Buy American* clause in the United States' economic stimulus plan to the Council of State Governments (CSG) and its Eastern Regional Conference (ERC). Two resolutions in support of Québec were adopted by the executive committees of both the ERC and the CSG. Delegations of Québec parliamentarians attended the 49th Annual Meeting of the ERC from August 2 to 5, 2009, in Burlington, Vermont, and the Annual Meeting of the CSG from November 12 to 15, 2009, in La Quinta, California.

American interparliamentary organizations are important forums for the National Assembly, which has used them to defend Québec's interests when it comes to energy, the environment, agriculture, health, education, trade and Québec-U.S. relations. The United States' economic stimulus package was a key theme at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) from July 20 to 24, 2009, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The National Assembly is the only international associated member to sit on the executive committee of the NCSL.

ERC/CSG

Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments: Organization that constitutes the Eastern Chapter of the CSG and is composed of parliamentarians and governmental representatives from the eleven states and two territories in the Northeastern United States as well as the five Canadian member provinces (National Assembly: international associated member since 1990)

BILATERAL RELATIONS

In 2009–2010 the National Assembly was involved in a host of interparliamentary activities as part of its bilateral relations with various legislative assemblies. Many of these relationships have been institutionalized by cooperation agreements. Meetings with their counterparts gave Members of the National Assembly an opportunity to inquire about legislative and parliamentary initiatives in other jurisdictions and thereby enrich debates about issues of the day affecting Québec society.

From September 8 to 13, 2009, the third session of the Catalonia-Québec Interparliamentary Commission was held in Barcelona, where the Québec delegation led by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, was able to share ideas with Catalan parliamentarians on farmland management and measures to prevent children from dropping out of school.

The Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association met in Québec City for its 16th General Assembly from October 23 to 25, 2009. In the presence of President Vallières and the Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, Mr. Steve Peters, parliamentarians from Ontario and Québec discussed initiatives to counter contraband tobacco and prevent children from dropping out of school.

A delegation of Québec parliamentarians also attended the 6th Annual Meeting of the French Senate and the National Assembly of Québec from December 7 to 11. The meeting allowed delegation members to discuss vocational training and workforce mobility with French senators from the France-Québec Friendship Group and its President, Mr. Jean-Claude Carle.

In addition, the President of the National Assembly led a delegation of Québec parliamentarians to France for the 23rd session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Group from December 14 to 18, 2009. The meeting, which marked 30 years since the group was first formed, was an opportunity for Québec Members to discuss balanced budgets and the school dropout issue with their colleagues from the France-Québec Friendship Group and its President, Mr. Pierre Lasbordes.

Finally, from February 22 to 26, 2010, the fifth session of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee was held in Munich from February 22 to 26, 2010. The delegation of Québec parliamentarians learned more about Bavaria's high-tech expertise in renewable energy and discussed vocational training with their German counterparts.

NCSL

National Conference of State Legislatures: American interparliamentary organization founded in 1975, composed of parliamentarians and public servants of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly: international associated member since 2000)

RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

The National Assembly also enjoys relationships with diverse institutions and parliamentary assemblies in Europe. Representatives from the National Assembly welcomed the President of the Assembly of European Regions (ARE) and the Vice-President of the regional council for the Île-de-France region, Ms. Michèle Sabban. Discussions were held on matters of interest to regions in Europe, notably the environment and the jurisdictions of substate authorities.

Members of the National Assembly delegation for relations with European institutions also went on a fact-finding trip to Brussels and Strasbourg from October 12 to 16, 2009. During meetings with representatives and elected officials from the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of European Regions, Québec Members discussed Québec's positions on climate change, the handling of petitions and promoting parliamentary democracy.

Did you know?

Since 1999 over 200 new parliamentarians from Mali, Benin and Niger have participated in exchange seminars with Québec Members.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

For several years now, the National Assembly has been providing technical support to the parliamentary institutions of emerging and consolidating democracies at both the parliamentary and administrative levels. These cooperation activities bring together parliamentarians and experts as they share knowledge and experiences at seminars and workshops.

This year the National Assembly hosted a seminar for the secretaries general of the national assemblies of Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi and Mali, as well as the Senate of Cambodia. It also welcomed a delegation from Mali that came to draw inspiration from our parliamentary control processes with a view to reforming government administration. In addition, the National Assembly sent a mission to the national assemblies of Benin and Mali. This mission sought to foster discussions with political and administrative authorities in both institutions in order to gauge their needs and agree on a new action plan to continue training and technical partnerships with both parliaments.

The Association des secrétaires généraux des parlements francophones (Association of Secretaries General from French-Speaking Parliaments, ASGPF) held its first training seminar on parliamentary governance in Burkina Faso, thanks among other things to the efforts of the National Assembly and its Secretary General, who is currently President of the ASGPF. This seminar brought together 22 participants from 10 parliaments.

OFFICIAL VISITS

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec City. Among them in 2009–2010, the National Assembly welcomed the following:

Official visits from Assembly Presidents:

- The Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, **Mr. Alex Fergusson**
- The Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable **Peter Milliken**
- The President of the Australian Senate, the Honourable **John Hogg**
- The Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, **Mr. Steve Peters**

Official visits from parliamentarians:

- The Senator of the Parliament of the Republic of Haiti and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas for the Antilles region, **Ms. Céméphise Gilles**
- The President of COPA's Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, **Ms. Flor María Ríos**
- The Member of the Legislative Council for the Parliament of New South Wales, **Ms. Melinda Pavey**
- A delegation of senators from the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- The 16th General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association (OQPA)
- The chair of the Energy Committee for the New York State Senate, **Mr. Darrel Aubertin**
- The President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie and Canadian Senator, **Ms. Rose-Marie Losier-Cool**

Official visits from representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations:

- The President of the Assembly of European Regions (ARE) and the Vice-President of the regional council for the Île-de-France region, **Ms. Michèle Sabban**
- The Vice-Governor of the Province of Shandong, **Ms. Wang Suilian**
- The Minister of Regional Development for Northern Ireland, **Mr. Conor Murphy**
- A delegation from the Committee for Institutional Reform (CARI) of the Republic of Mali
- The 6th Congress of the Association des ombudsmans et médiateurs de la Francophonie (the Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of the Francophonie)
- The Vice President for Mobilization of the Island of Réunion, **Mr. Wilfrid Bertile**
- The Governor of the State of Jalisco, Mexico, **Mr. Emilio González Márquez**

CITIZENS

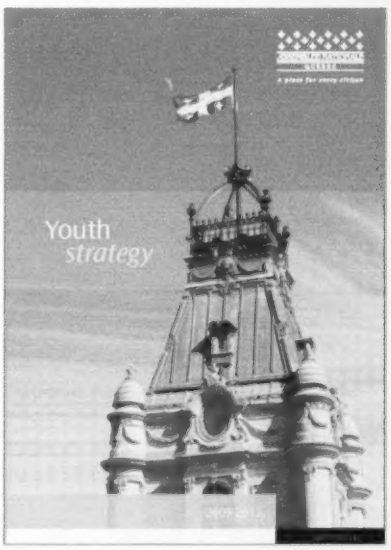
CITIZENS

In addition to providing citizens with the opportunity to follow parliamentary proceedings and on occasion to take part in them, the National Assembly has a vast array of communications tools to bring citizens and their elected representatives closer together.

EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

To stimulate the interest of people of all ages in the exercise of democracy and contribute to their becoming active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy.

Youth Strategy



Building on the educational mission it has developed since 1992, the National Assembly released a youth strategy in November 2009 aimed at helping teachers educate students about democracy and reach young people in their everyday environments. This innovative initiative for 2009–2012 provides for new teaching materials, an Education Zone on the Assembly website and a kit to accompany Member visits to schools. It also provides for new training workshops, the development of a communications plan for National Assembly educational activities and a promotional campaign for youth groups, a Presidents' Tour (which has already begun), changes to how school groups are welcomed to the Assembly and lastly the implementation of Parliaments in Elementary Schools, a project overseen by the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant.

This strategy allows the National Assembly to reaffirm its educational leadership to citizens and democracy as a whole.

Tournament and parliamentary simulations

The Tournament and parliamentary simulations are role-playing activities designed to educate participants about the operation of the National Assembly, its rules and privileges and the limits of its powers. Apprentice Members spend several days drafting and discussing bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and respect for others, as others put their historical knowledge to the test by answering questions raised by the tournament.

17TH YOUNG DEMOCRATS' TOURNAMENT

Date: April 17 to 19, 2009

Target group: Secondary 4 and 5 and college students

No. of participants: 253 students and teachers

No. of schools and colleges represented: 31

No. of teams involved: 48 (24 high school teams and 24 college teams)

Theme: Women and politics

13TH PUPILS' PARLIAMENT

Date: May 1, 2009

Target group: 6th grade elementary school students

No. of participants: 236 students and teachers

No. of schools represented: 80

Three bills were studied:

1. An Act to set up a democratic student council in all elementary schools of the Province of Québec
2. An Act obliging elementary schools to put sports teams in place to enable competition between schools
3. An Act obliging elementary schools to add a cooking class to their timetables, while becoming involved with a local charity

Bills 1 and 2 were passed.

18TH STUDENT FORUM

Date: January 10 to 14, 2010

Target group: College students

No. of participants: 168 students and teachers

No. of Cegeps represented: 26

Three bills were studied:

1. An Act respecting organ and tissue donations
2. An Act respecting responsible water use by businesses
3. An Act respecting the access, sale and distribution of energy drinks

All three bills were passed.

8TH YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

Date: February 3 to 5, 2010

Target group: Secondary 3 and 4 students

No. of participants: 135 student Members, members of the Presiding Body, secretaries, journalists and teachers

No. of schools represented: 37

Three bills were studied:

1. An act to promote culture among young people
2. An act concerning the sexual education of young people in schools
3. An act to instigate measures concerning images conveyed in advertising and to make young people more aware of the influence of certain advertisements

Bills 2 and 3 were passed.

PRESIDENTS' TOUR

Launched on November 6, 2009, the Presidents' Tour has taken the President of the National Assembly and three Vice-Presidents, accompanied by Members for the electoral divisions in question, to 24 high schools in 10 regions across Québec. Tour participants have met with some 4,500 students interested in parliamentary institutions.

Set to the theme of "La démocratie au cœur de nos vies," the activity aims to make students aware of the importance of democracy and civic participation, promote the role played by the National Assembly and explain the duties of Assembly Members and presidents. The tour will continue in spring 2010 in other regions of Québec.

Did you know?

In addition to Members' work, two parliamentary simulations at the National Assembly give young people an opportunity to try their hand at being a press officer or journalist. Kept up to date on the latest news from Parliament by apprentice government and opposition press officers, trainee journalists produce their own newspaper, *L'attaché de presse*, published once at the end of the Young People's Parliament, and *Vox Populi*, which is distributed five times during the week-long parliamentary proceedings at the Student Forum. Both publications are available online in the "Educational Activities" section of the National Assembly website.

L'attaché de presse

Vox Populi

Youth Parliament, Student Parliament and the Parlement des sages

The National Assembly lends its support to various groups by helping them organize parliamentary simulations and arrange event logistics. The Parlement des sages brings together seniors and people who have taken early retirement, while the Youth Parliament and the Student Parliament are both aimed at college and university students. All three parliaments give groups an opportunity to spend a few days learning the basics of the legislative and parliamentary process.

Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

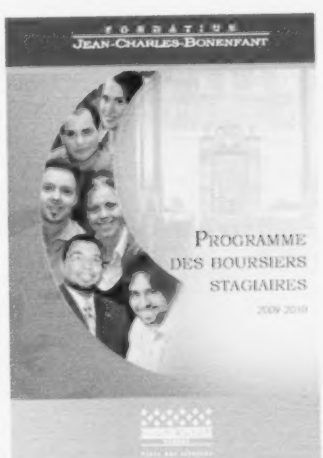
This National Assembly foundation bears the name of the man celebrated at his death in 1978 as one of the great intellectuals of Québec. Since 1978 the foundation has kept the memory of Jean-Charles Bonenfant—a law clerk, university scholar, historian, author and humanist—alive among the general public, particularly young people.

In continuing its namesake's efforts to further democracy and parliamentary institutions, the foundation organizes a host of activities each year, including the activity known as Parliaments in High Schools, which reaches over 5,000 students age 13 to 17 in their home school environment, as well as a conference on themes relating to parliamentarism. It also funds paid parliamentary internships for Québec university students.

In 2009–2010 the foundation was more active than ever in the province's schools, colleges and universities, with a new project called Parliaments in Elementary Schools, which reaches elementary students in their school environment and allows them to experience a new student council format inspired by certain aspects of parliamentarism.

Parliamentary internships

Each year since 1978, the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant has provided paid parliamentary internships at the National Assembly. Participants experience the numerous aspects of Québec parliamentary life, becoming more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly and of the institutions that report to it, namely the Auditor General, the Québec Ombudsman, the Chief Electoral Officer and the Lobbyists Commissioner. Subsequently, each intern is paired with a Member from the Government and then a Member of an opposition party. The interns also take part in a mission abroad and are required to prepare a dissertation comparing legislative systems.



Scholarship recipients for 2008–2009, left to right: Pierre-Olivier Legault-Tremblay, Marie-Astrid Ospina D'Amours, Olivier Bégin-Caouette, Pierre-Luc Turgeon and Marc-André Turcotte

In June 2009 scholarship recipients for 2008–2009 Olivier Bégin-Caouette, Pierre-Olivier Legault-Tremblay, Marie-Astrid Ospina D'Amours, Marc-André Turcotte and Pierre-Luc Turgeon completed their internships. Over the ten months, the interns learned more about the parliamentary system in Québec and had the chance to compare it with the system in Brazil, which they visited. They were particularly interested in electronic voting, mandatory voting and Brazil's thriving federalism.

On June 16 an official ceremony presided by Mr. Jacques Chagnon, the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly and the foundation's Vice-President, marked the end of a busy year as the interns submitted their dissertations:

- *Les parlementaires québécois et leur influence sur la réforme de l'éducation de 1997* (Olivier Bégin-Caouette)
- *La promesse d'un rôle accru pour l'Assemblée nationale et le gouvernement du Québec dans les négociations commerciales internationales : Analyse des négociations à trois niveaux* (Pierre-Olivier Legault-Tremblay)
- *Portrait de l'autonomie administrative de l'Assemblée nationale et du Bureau, en vertu de la Loi sur l'Assemblée nationale* (Marie-Astrid Ospina D'Amours)
- *Déclin du parlementarisme : collaboration des pouvoirs ou concentration des pouvoirs* (Marc-André Turcotte)
- *Les parlementaires québécois face aux défis engendrés par la mondialisation* (Pierre-Luc Turgeon)

The dissertations are available from the Library of the National Assembly and the foundation's website at **www.fondationbonenfant.qc.ca**

Beginning of 2009–2010 internships

Scholarship recipients for 2009–2010 Laurie Comtois, Maxime Fortin, Laurence Fouquette-L'Anglais, Pierre Lessard-Blais and Martine Sirois began their internships by being twinned with a Member from the Government, then a Member of the Opposition. They each wrote a dissertation during their internships. The interns then went on a fact-finding mission to Japan, where they compared the situation in Québec with how things were in Tokyo and the Canadian government with the Japanese government. The issues of population aging and Japan's union culture were of particular interest to the group.

Scholarship recipients for 2009–2010, left to right: Laurie Comtois, Maxime Fortin, Pierre Lessard-Blais, Martine Sirois and Laurence Fouquette-L'Anglais

Parliaments in High School

Parliaments in High School takes its inspiration from the National Assembly while mirroring the operation of student councils. The program encourages secondary schoolers in years one through five to take part in decisions affecting student life, thus helping them to feel that they have a role to play in their school communities. Participation takes place in a spirit of cooperation and assistance between the school board, school principal and school staff members.

The activity allows young people to acquire knowledge of the National Assembly and experience the process of debating public issues while upholding values such as respect for differences of opinion and the art of compromise.

The generous contribution of Rio Tinto Alcan helps the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant run this exercise in democratic participation and education. The Fédération des commissions scolaires and the Secrétariat à la jeunesse also contribute financially.

As at March 31, 2010, Parliaments in High Schools included 191 schools and over 5,000 student council members.

Inaugurated in spring 2008, the Parliaments in High Schools Award rewards students for their achievements in drafting their own bills. The foundation awarded $500 to each of the three schools that came up with the best bills:

- Act respecting the development of a morning newscast
  (École Les Compagnons-de-Cartier, Québec City)
- Act prohibiting the consumption or possession of energy drinks in school
  (École Marcel-Raymond, Lorrainville)
- Act respecting the creation of a student lounge
  (École aux Quatre-Vents, Bonaventure).

7th Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Conference

The three conference participants, left to right: Messrs. François Gélineau, Norman Delisle and Marcel Blanchet. To the right, conference host and then President of the Press Gallery, Mr. Pierre Duchesne

Organized in conjunction with the Faculty of Law at Université Laval, the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant conferences address themes that were close to the heart of Jean-Charles Bonenfant: parliamentarism, the fundamental principles of public law, federalism and jurisdiction sharing, the legal history of institutions and the drafting and interpretation of statutes.

The 7th conference, which was hosted by Radio-Canada journalist Pierre Duchesne, was held on November 18, 2009, and examined what to do about declining voter turnout. Three speakers debated the subject: Mr. Marcel Blanchet, Chief Electoral Officer; Mr. François Gélineau, a politics professor at Université Laval; and Mr. Norman Delisle, former journalist and member of the press gallery.

Mr. Gélineau took the opportunity to unveil the findings of a study looking into why people vote in Québec. The study, which he led for the Chief Electoral Officer, was carried out by the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions at Université Laval.

Course on parliamentary law and procedure at Université Laval

For a sixth consecutive year, the National Assembly and Université Laval have formed a partnership to offer a course on parliamentary law and procedure to university students. Tailor-made for law and political science students, this course seeks to instruct them on the rules and principles that characterize the organization and operation of the parliamentary proceedings carried out at the National Assembly.

Parliamentary procedure training session

In 2009-2010 parliamentary personnel once again responded to requests for training on parliamentary procedure further to the reform. Target groups included staff from ministries and public agencies, as well as students taking certain university courses.

Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour program

On April 23, 2009, the National Assembly hosted the fourth edition of the Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour event. Young people were able to explore occupations and professions of interest to them, becoming directors, cameramen and the like for the day. Hosted by an employee from the Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate, 9 students from secondary 4 and 5 explored a new work environment and various aspects of the occupations or professions they were interested in. For more information, visit: **www.jeunes-explorateurs.org**.

A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT OPENS ITS DOORS TO CITIZENS

Open House Day at the Parliament Building and a tour of the gardens

On June 24, Québec's national holiday, nearly 2,000 people accepted the invitation of the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, to meet him personally and tour the Parliament Building. Musicians, a face painter, a magician, historians and seasoned guides fielded questions on everything from the architecture and ornamentation of the Parliament Building to the roles and responsibilities of government Members. The Library of the National Assembly was also open to visitors.

Exhibitions

Clocks and Debates: Time at the Heart of the National Assembly

Presented in the main hall and the Presidents' Gallery, the *Clocks and Debates: Time at the Heart of the National Assembly* exhibition showcases the leading role time plays in the way Parliament and its Members go about their work. Visitors can put their knowledge to the test in an interactive quiz.

The exhibition also features a collection of 15 clocks belonging to the National Assembly. Pride of place is given to Cyrille Duquet, a clockmaker from Québec City who designed many of the timepieces in the Parliament Building and made a significant contribution to clockmaking in Québec.

Prestance et beauté, la Colline révélée at the Observatoire de la Capitale

On September 23, 2009, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, and the President and CEO of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, Mr. Jacques Langlois, inaugurated the *Prestance et beauté, la Colline révélée* exhibition by the official photographer of the National Assembly, Mr. Christian Chevalier, at the Observatoire de la Capitale.

The East Facade of the Observatoire de la Capitale has 24 of the artist's photographs revealing Parliament Hill in all its glory, including the Parliament Building and its annexes, the gardens of Parliament Hill, Place de l'Assemblée-Nationale and the Tourny Fountain. Capturing Parliament Hill by night and day and throughout the seasons, the photographer takes us on an original journey to the heart of this seat of power.

Mr. Christian Chevalier, the official photographer of the National Assembly, whose work is featured in the exhibition

Did you know?

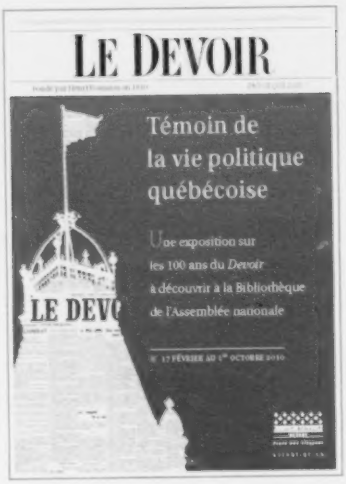
The clock in the Parliament Building's central tower is clockmaker Cyrille Duquet's masterwork. Visitors can take a closer look by climbing close to 200 steps with master clockmaker André Viger. As at March 31, 2010, some 150 visitors had done just that.

National Assembly clockkeeper, Mr. André Viger, accompanied by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, at the launch of the *Clocks and Debates: Time at the Heart of the National Assembly* exhibition

Duplessis in the Library of the National Assembly

The year 2009 marked the 50th anniversary of the death of a man who was Québec's Premier for close to 20 years and who left his mark on the province's political history: Maurice Duplessis. The National Assembly devoted an exhibition to Duplessis in the Library of the National Assembly to celebrate his impressive legacy and remember a character who leaves no-one indifferent.

The Duplessis exhibition was officially opened on the occasion of the seminar "Duplessis, son milieu, son époque," which was held in Trois-Rivières on September 17 and 18, 2009. The exhibition moved to the National Assembly on September 25, 2009 and ran until February 5, 2010.



Le Devoir: Witness to Political Life in Québec

Elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1908, Henri Bourassa founded the newspaper *Le Devoir* in 1910. A unique window on political goings-on in Québec ever since, the daily has played a leading role in the province's history.

This original exhibition is an invitation to learn about the history of the newspaper, its founder and its publishers and journalists, along with a few milestones in Québec's history as covered by *Le Devoir*.

The exhibition runs until October 1, 2010, and marks 100 years of the newspaper.

The Québec Premier, Mr. Jean Charest; the editor of *Le Devoir* newspaper, Mr. Bernard Descôteaux; and the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, on the day of the launch of the *Le Devoir: Witness to Political Life in Québec* exhibition in the Library of the National Assembly

Sur les traces des députés

Unveiled on Political Book Day in Québec, this exhibition showcases the archival heritage of Québec's parliamentarians. The actions of Members have an impact on the day-to-day lives of their constituents, regions and parties throughout their political careers. The exhibition looks at milestones in the lives of Members and displays documents from their archival fonds.

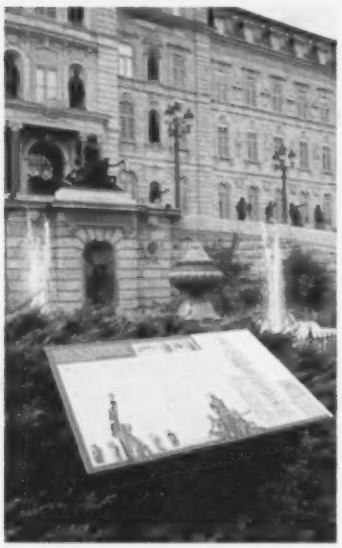
Le Québec, ses députés, ses régions

Since December 2006 there has been a great coming-together of hearts and minds at the Parliament. In 2009 the National Assembly updated Member video profiles and found a new home for the permanent exhibition *Le Québec, ses députés, ses régions* in the Visitor Centre. For a third year, the National Assembly is showcasing the beauties and riches of Québec's 17 regions as seen through the eyes of the Members, in the form of some stunning photography.

These videos in which the 125 Members introduce themselves, explain their role at the National Assembly and talk about their regions are a central part of the exhibition. They can be viewed on interactive terminals in the Visitor Centre and can also be accessed from Member biography pages on the National Assembly website (assnat.qc.ca), in addition to being broadcast on the National Assembly Channel.

A better visitor experience

Student Reception Room
In June 2009 a new room was made available to parliamentarians for the purpose of welcoming student groups visiting the Parliament Building, giving them a place to talk away from the hustle and bustle of parliamentary proceedings.



Bronze plaques in front of the Parliament Building
Three bronze plaques on the building's history, the mission of the National Assembly and Québec's "Je me souviens" motto have been added to the parvis, enhancing the experience for visitors on self-guided tours.

Heritage presentation of the statues on the outside tour
Major presentation work was performed on the statues around the Parliament Building in 2009–2010. Information was added to the self-guided outdoor tour along with new interpretive panels on either side of the *Fisherman with Spear* Fountain.

Guided tours

A total of 83,905 people visited the Parliament Building and its gardens from April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010, and 21,679 of them walked through Door 3 to visit its restaurants, standing committee chambers and La Boutique.

Parliament Building Visits by Place of Origin		
Place of Origin	Number of Visitors	%
Québec	55,744	67
Other provinces	8,515	10
United States	6,800	8
Other countries	12,846	15
Total	83,905	100

Parliament Building Visits by Language		
Language	Number of Visitors	%
English	20,708	24
Spanish	543	1
French	62,554	74
Italian	68	0.5
Québec Sign Language	32	0.5
Total	83,905	100

Parliament Building Visits by School Group		
Groups	Number of Visitors	%
Elementary	11,974	42
High school	13,171	47
College	1,534	5
Adult education	1,132	4
University	488	2
Total	28,299	100

Interns from the Faculty of Food and Agriculture at Université Laval look after the gardens of Parliament Hill.

In the summer of 2009, some 600 passers-by visited the kiosk outside the Parliament Building to sign up for guided tours of the gardens and grounds. Another 5,200 stopped by to ask for information.

Visits to the Library of the National Assembly

Over 9,800 people visited the Library of the National Assembly as library users, guests at special events or visitors. Open houses, guided tours, book launches, exhibitions and talks held throughout the year attracted close to 3,300 visitors.

Did you know?

Private businesses and organizations may use the services of Le Parlementaire restaurant, where customers can dine in unique surroundings and take a tour of the Parliament Building.

Parliament Building restaurants

Summer and Carnival brunches

In the magnificent Beaux-Arts dining room of Le Parlementaire restaurant, staff welcomed over 1,200 visitors to traditional theme brunches tied in to major events in the provincial capital. Québec's national holiday, the Québec City Summer Festival, the New France Festival and the Québec Winter Carnival saw the restaurant serve up gourmet brunches featuring Québec products creatively presented by the chefs.

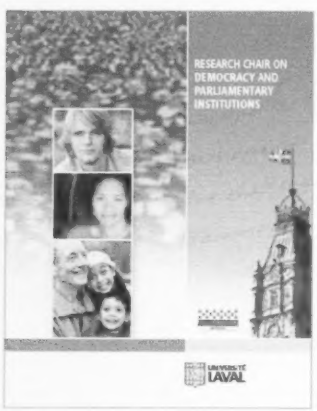
Did you know?

Since 1995 the Library of the National Assembly has sold promotional items featuring the National Assembly logo. Made for the most part in Québec, they help raise the Assembly's profile. Some 225 products are also available online.

A FORUM FOR EXCHANGES

Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions

The chair seeks to promote democratic and parliamentary institutions, create a university centre of excellence and educate graduate students about the multiple facets of parliamentarianism. In particular, it disseminates knowledge through conferences, seminars and similar activities.



Launched on November 20, 2007, the chair brings together Université Laval (the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Political Science and the Faculty of Law), the National Assembly of Québec, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Auditor General, the Lobbyists Commissioner, the Québec Ombudsman and the National Assembly of the French Republic.

The chair's activities in 2009–2010 included organizing an international seminar entitled *Redefining the Political Order: New Processes for Constitution-Making*. Two conferences were also held. The first dealt with the Chief Electoral Officer's relationship with parliamentarians and government and was given by Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada from 1990 to

Conference speakers at the *Redefining the Political Order: New Processes for Constitution-Making* seminar, left to right: Messrs. Louis Massicotte (Université Laval), Bertrand Mathieu (Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne), John Dinan (Wake Forest University, North Carolina), Karol Soltan (University of Maryland at College Park), Javier Corrales (Amherst College, Massachusetts) and Jonathan Rose (Queen's University, Kingston). Also pictured: the event organizer, Ms. Eugénie Brouillet (Université Laval)

2007. The second, by Dr. Udo Kempf, a professor at Freiburg Teacher Training College in Germany, looked at the results, impact and consequences of the German elections of September 27, 2009. *Le Parlement du Québec de 1867 à aujourd'hui*, a book written by the chairholder, Mr. Louis Massicotte, was also launched.

National Assembly Open House for New Quebecers

An initiative of the President of the National Assembly in conjunction with the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles and the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, the open house is an opportunity for participants to learn more about their Parliament and how it runs, and the work that Members do. Participants are invited to take part in a briefing and discussion with the President of the National Assembly and Members from their region, take a guided tour of the Parliament Building and attend Oral Questions and Answers. They are also invited to enjoy stunning views of Parliament Hill and Québec City from the Observatoire de la Capitale.

In 2009–2010 new Quebecers from the Capitale-Nationale, Estrie, Montréal Sud and Laval regions accepted the invitation extended by the President of the National Assembly.

7th Political Book Day in Québec

Québec's 7th Political Book Day was held on April 14, 2009. This activity at the National Assembly seeks to raise the profile of political books in the eyes of parliamentarians and the general public and reward their authors.

It included the opening of the *Sur les traces des députés* exhibition, a talk by Mr. Riccardo Petrella on a new international political architecture and the sovereignty of peoples and humanity and a round table on state sovereignty in a globalized world featuring Paul-André Comeau, guest professor at the École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP) in Montréal; Marie-Hélène D'Entremont-Sauvé, communications chief for the political party Vision Montréal; Riccardo Petrella, an economist and highly regarded political scientist; and Michel Venne, founder and executive director of the Institut du Nouveau Monde.

The following authors received awards at the end of the day:

- Dominique Labbé and Denis Monière, Prix de la Présidence de l'Assemblée nationale, for their work *Les mots qui nous gouvernent : le discours des premiers ministres québécois : 1960-2005*
- Charles-Philippe Courtois, Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant and Prix du ministère des Relations internationales du Québec/Ministère des Affaires étrangères de France, for a doctoral thesis entitled *Trois mouvements intellectuels québécois et leurs relations françaises : l'Action française, la Relève et la nation (1917-1939)*
- Valérie Lapointe-Gagnon, Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, for a master's thesis entitled *De fiel et de miel : les représentations de la stratégie de gestion de la crise post-référendaire présentes dans la presse canadienne, 1995-1999*

COMMUNICATIONS

2009–2012 Public Communications Plan

Spawned by the 2009–2012 Strategic Plan for the Administration of the National Assembly, the 2009–2012 Public Communications Plan puts forward a series of new approaches for bringing the National Assembly closer to citizens, including developing a youth strategy, adding to National Assembly Channel programming, optimizing the Assembly website and organizing original theme activities open to the general public.

National Assembly Channel

The National Assembly Channel broadcasts live and pre-recorded news and programming about National Assembly activities on television and online. With parliamentary and educational activities, visits from dignitaries, exhibition vignettes, interviews, documentaries and more, the public now has access to richer, more diversified programming than ever.

Figures de la démocratie, a new television series, is launched

A brand new television documentary series, *Figures de la démocratie*, looks at the people and institutions that have shaped the history of democracy in Québec from the French regime to the present day. Episodes are broadcast on the National Assembly Channel and the Assembly website.

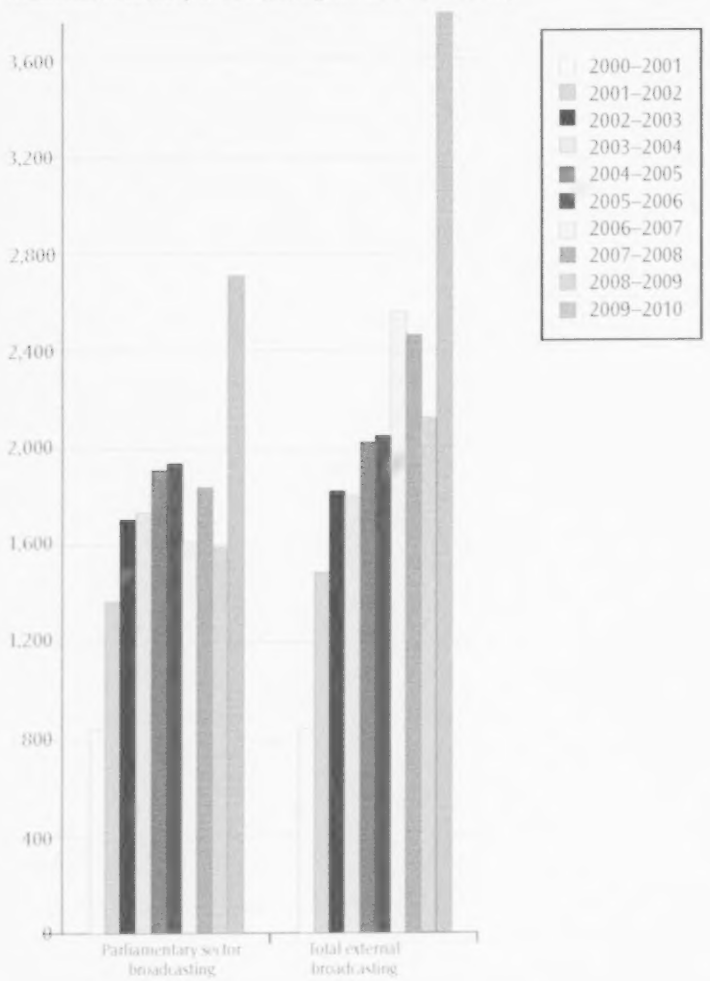
The first episode, broadcast on February 22, 2010, at 7 p.m., featured Henri Bourassa, who, among other things, founded *Le Devoir*.

Coverage Service	No. of Activities	Duration
Televised coverage	1,093	1,857 hr. 50 min.
Mobile recording	107	327 hr. 05 min.
Audio recording	166	371 hr. 10 min.
Digital recording, *Journal des débats [Hansard]*	1,123	1,968 hr. 28 min.

National Assembly Channel		No. of Activities	Duration
Parliamentary activities	Parliamentary proceedings and press events	1,543	2,675 hr. 04 min.
In-house production	Institutional promotion	–	555 hr. 23 min.
	Mémoire de députés and *Figures de démocratie*	–	265 hr. 23 min.
	Members' holiday greetings (Québec's national holiday and Christmas holidays)	–	171 hr. 32 min.
	Special programming, 30 years of televised debate broadcasts	–	92 hr. 38 min.

Total external broadcasting	3,760 hr.
Continuous electronic hosting	4,999 hr. 59 min.
Total broadcasting for the National Assembly Channel	8,760 hr.

National Assembly Broadcasting Statistics (in Hours)



Mémoires de députés

Thanks to the participation of ex-parliamentarians, 34 original episodes of *Mémoires de députés* were shown on the National Assembly Channel and the Assembly website in 2009–2010.

The 100th episode of the series, which focuses on the career of Ms. Claire-Hélène Hovington, Member for Matane from 1985 to 1994, was broadcast on March 14, 2010. On this occasion the President of the National Assembly and the President of the Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec paid tribute to the men and women behind the initiative, the people who made the series and the former parliamentarians involved.

A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT DOES ITS PART FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The National Assembly launches a sustainable development action plan

Building on steps already taken in this direction, particularly the *Pour l'avenir, je récupère* Campaign of 2007, the National Assembly's Sustainable Development Action Plan was made public on November 12, 2009, by the President of the Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, accompanied by Minister Line Beauchamp, representing the Premier; Ms. Pauline Marois, the Leader of the Official Opposition; and Mr. François Bonnardel, then Leader of the Second Opposition Group. The holder of the Chaire de recherche et d'intervention en écoconseil at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Mr. Claude Villeneuve, was also in attendance to support the National Assembly's initiative.

The result of efforts initiated in 2008, the three-year plan—which all National Assembly staff were invited to contribute to—sets out 11 goals and 40 measures concerning various aspects of sustainable development (social, economic, ethical and ecological).

Sustainable development actions

In 2009–2010 a number of measures listed in the action plan were implemented, including the acquisition of a NEMO electric vehicle and the publication of guides on greening the workplace and environmentally responsible activities.

Work to enhance sustainability and energy savings was also performed on the Jean-Antoine-Panet Building, including replacing heating and air conditioning pumps and installing a heat pump.

On October 14, 2009, the National Assembly reached Level 2 of Recyc-Québec's *Ici on recycle* Program, the result of action taken to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

As part of continued efforts to reduce waste, the National Assembly has also begun using composting bins.

The National Assembly's Sustainable Development Action Plan is available online in the "Sustainable Development" section of the National Assembly website at assnat.qc.ca.

Left to right: Mr. François Bonnardel, Mr. Scott McKay, Ms. Line Beauchamp, Mr. Claude Villeneuve and Mr. Yvon Vallières at the unveiling of the National Assembly's Sustainable Development Action Plan on November 12, 2009.

NEMO electric vehicle

In line with its commitment to sustainable development, the National Assembly has purchased an electric vehicle for its Messenger Service, an initiative unveiled at the launch of the Sustainable Development Action Plan on November 12, 2009.

The small noise-free truck is powered by batteries and an electric engine. It produces zero CO2 emissions and has a range of 115 km at a maximum speed of 40 kph, carrying up to 1,000 lb. It was assembled in Laval by Québec company NEMO Inc. and cost approximately $35,000.

National Assembly couriers clock up some 25,000 km every year and had gas receipts of $6,500 in 2008–2009. The NEMO costs around 75¢ per 100 km to run, or about $190 a year in electricity, representing savings of $6,312.50. The truck will therefore pay for itself in approximately five years.

Choosing an electric vehicle is tangible evidence of the National Assembly's determination to do its part for sustainable development.

Did you know?

Out-dated IT equipment slated to be surplussed is sent to organizations like Ordinateurs pour les écoles du Québec (OPEQ) and the Centre de formation en entreprise et récupération (CFER), which use it for training purposes and ensure that waste is disposed of ecologically.

Water management breakfast conference

On November 11, 2009, at Le Parlementaire restaurant, the President of the National Assembly organized a breakfast conference for Members and political and administrative staff on the theme of Members as key partners in local water management, given by Mr. Raymond Jost, Secretary General of the International Secretariat for Water. A student from the École Montagnac in Lac-Beauport presented the President with a water-themed mosaic made by her class.

HERITAGE

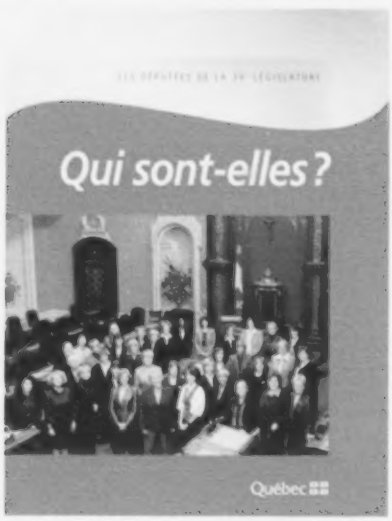
DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

Les Publications du Québec and the National Assembly win a Zénith Award

The 2009 Zénith Awards ceremony to recognize excellence in government communications was held on May 20, 2009. The National Assembly and Les Publications du Québec won a Zénith in the prestige document publishing category for *Québec : quatre siècles d'une capitale*. The book's authors, Christian Blais, Gilles Gallichan, Frédéric Lemieux and Jocelyn Saint-Pierre also received the Québec City 400th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion in 2008.

Left to right: Messrs. Christian Blais and Frédéric Lemieux, two of the four authors of *Québec : quatre siècles d'une capitale*, which won a Zénith Award in the prestige document publishing category, accompanied by Ms. Ann Picard, Ms. Brigitte Carrier, Ms. Diane Jean, Mr. Guy Saint-Pierre, Ms. Joan Deraiche and Ms. Francine Bouchard

Qui sont-elles ? Brochure published

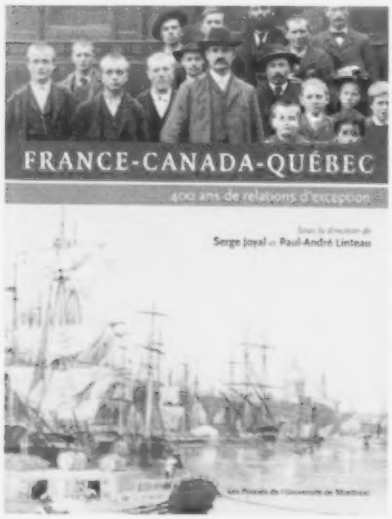


To pay tribute to the 36 women elected in the December 8, 2008 general election, the Conseil du statut de la femme and the National Assembly produced Qui sont-elles?, a publication introducing each of the new Members and showcasing their achievements. By dint of their courage and conviction, they have made a place for themselves in our Parliament and shaped the image of our society.

Did you know?

Québec's Parliament has always had a thriving political, legal and historical culture. At the end of the 19th century, over 13,000 pages of archive documents were retranscribed and published under the auspices of Québec's Legislature. Today the National Assembly of Québec still plays an important role in publishing books and documents on the province's parliamentary and political history.

Prix de l'Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française



In April 2009, the National Assembly and the Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française (IHAF) came together to create a literary award and $3,000 cash prize.

The award seeks to encourage the production of original, quality works on the political history of French-speaking America that are well researched and accessible to the general public.

It is evidence of the National Assembly of Québec's desire to showcase its heritage and disseminate historical and political knowledge through quality books.

The inaugural Prix de l'Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française et de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec for 2009 was awarded to *France – Canada – Québec : 400 ans de relations d'exception*, co-edited by Serge Joyal and Paul-André Linteau.

Reissue of *Dictionnaire des parlementaires du Québec de 1792 à nos jours*

On November 25, 2009, *Dictionnaire des parlementaires du Québec de 1792 à nos jours* was reissued at a ceremony celebrating the 15 and 20 year anniversaries of several current Members.

The dictionary, which boasts over 2,400 biographies of parliamentarians, is now in its third edition. The National Assembly first published *Répertoire des parlementaires du Québec, 1867-1978* in 1980, followed 12 years later by *Dictionnaire des parlementaires du Québec, 1792-1992* to mark the bicentenary of the parliamentary institutions.

For the first time, the dictionary includes a short analysis of various aspects of parliamentary life in Québec, including political life expectancy, Members' occupational backgrounds, comparisons between the sexes and differences between the make-up of our institution and the Legislative Council of yore.

Did you know?

In the past year, the Library of the National Assembly finished processing the archival fonds of Messrs. Louis-Philippe Lacroix, Jérôme Proulx and Mario Dumont. They join some 30 others available in the library.

Library and virtual library collections

As at March 31, 2010, over 2.1 million documents were available for consultation in the library:

Print	
monographs	492,213
magazines and periodicals	280,217
newspapers	711,376
Microdocuments	
microfilms	36,880
microfiches	570,065
Electronic documents (online, CD-ROMs)	8,109
Audio recordings	185
Videocassettes	875
Posters, cards and photographs	949
Total	2,100,869

In figures

In 2009–2010, reference staff at the library answered 9,560 queries. Of these, 4,246 came from parliamentarians, their associates and staff at the National Assembly and agencies reporting to the National Assembly. Librarians produced eight bibliographies on everything from dropping out of school to parliamentary administration. They published lists of new additions to the library and continued to add to the bibliography on parliamentarism in Québec. The bibliography is available online and is the most comprehensive source of information to date on parliamentary work in Québec.

ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGE

Unveiling of the photograph of the 43rd President of the National Assembly, Mr. François Gendron

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Yvon Vallières, unveiled the photograph of his predecessor, Mr. François Gendron, who was the 43rd President of the National Assembly from October 21, 2008, to January 13, 2009. The ceremony took place in the Presidents' Gallery in the main hall of the Parliament Building in the presence of Mr. Gendron and photographer Christian Chevalier. Mr. Gendron followed in the footsteps of the 42nd President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, who reinstated the tradition of official photographs, which was widespread in the early 20th century.

9th and 10th restoration phases for Parliament Building offices

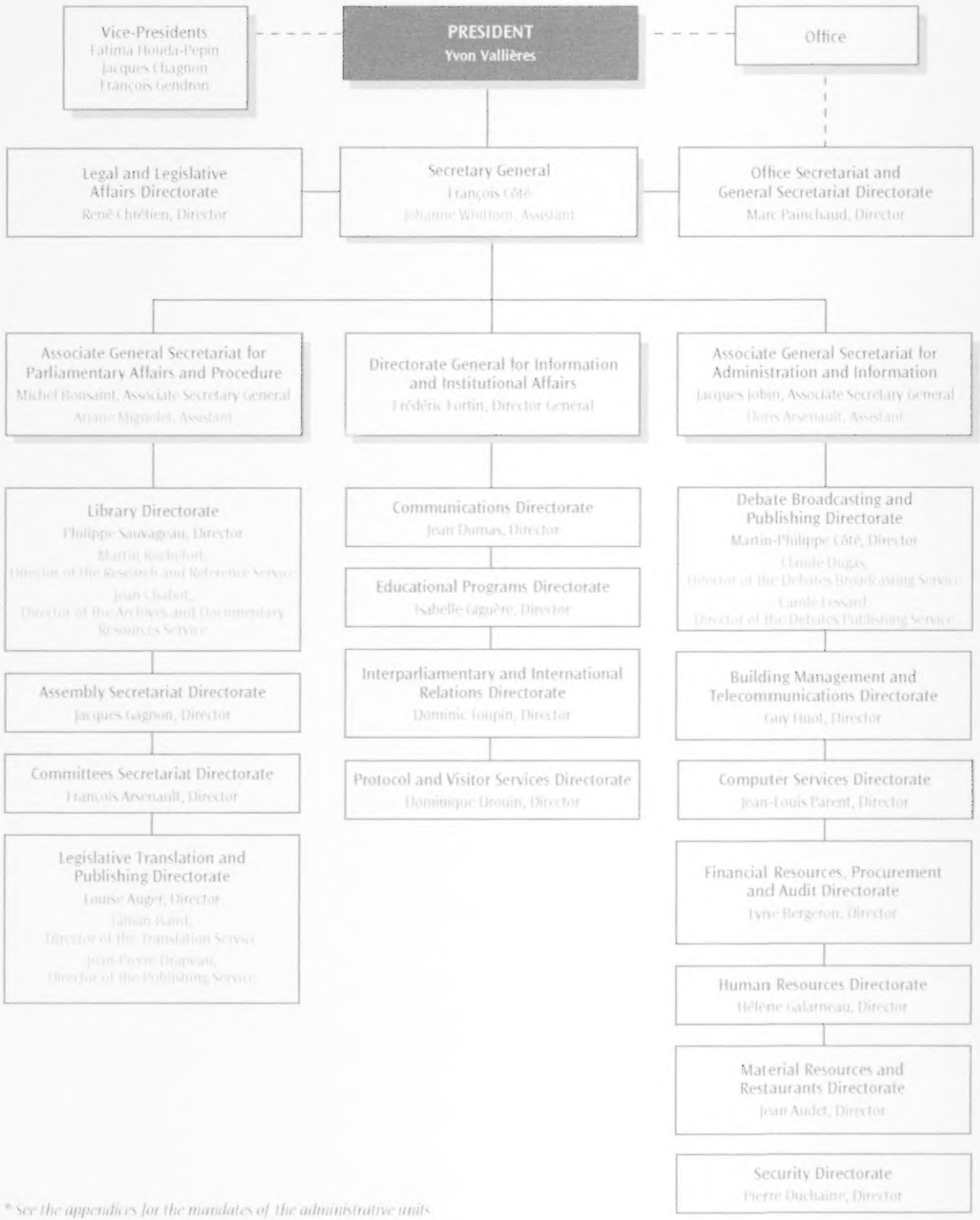
The 9th and 10th phases of restoration work have seen the restoration of 45 of the 310 offices occupied by parliamentarians and their staff. To date 84% of restoration work has been completed.

Plasterwork and panelling have been restored, and new floors and lights have been installed in keeping with the building's heritage character. It is the first time the offices have been renovated since the Parliament was built over 120 years ago.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AS AT MARCH 31, 2010*



* *See the appendices for the mandates of the administrative units.*

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly is administered within the framework of the statutes, regulations and rules to which it is subject. To preserve its administrative autonomy, the *Act respecting the National Assembly* established the Office of the National Assembly, which acts as its administrative board and passes any regulation it deems necessary for operation of the Assembly. It must, among other duties, approve the Assembly's budgetary estimates and regulate matters of immediate concern to Members, such as their allowances and working conditions.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Chair of the Office: Mr. Yvon Vallières

Members:

Québec Liberal Party	Parti québécois	Action démocratique du Québec
Mr. Stéphane Billette	Mr. Nicolas Girard	Mr. Janvier Grondin
Mr. Germain Chevarie	Ms. Lorraine Richard	
Mr. Yvon Marcoux	Mr. Bertrand Saint-Arnaud	
Mr. Michel Matte		
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti		

Substitute Members:

Québec Liberal Party	Parti québécois	Action démocratique du Québec
Mr. Daniel Bernard	Mr. Marjolain Dufour	Ms. Sylvie Roy
Ms. Lucie Charlebois	Ms. Véronique Hivon	
Ms. Johanne Gonthier	Ms. Nicole Léger	
Mr. Pierre Moreau		
Mr. Pierre Reid		

PERSONNEL

Staff

To carry out its mission, the National Assembly has an administrative staff of 607 people in 536 regular and 71 temporary positions. Its political staff of executive assistants, political aides and advisors and support staff totals 540 people, divided between Parliament Hill and Members' riding offices.

Administrative Staff by Age Group

35 and under	27%
36–40	9%
41–45	12%
46–50	15%
51–55	18%
56 and over	19%

Administrative Staff
by Employment Category

- Executives
- Professionals
- Public servants
- Workers
- Peace officers
- Others

Women	52%
Men	48%

A quarter century of commitment

On December 11, 2009, a ceremony was held in the company of the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Yvon Vallières; the Secretary General, Mr. François Côté; and several other guests to celebrate the dedication of staff who have worked in the Québec National Assembly or as public servants for 25 years. Carole Gagné, Claudette Gauvreau, Gisèle Guay, Claire Jacques, Guylaine Poulin, Sylvie St-Hilaire, Manon Voyer, Alain Bernard, Léonce Cantin, Bertrand Nadeau, Jean-Louis Parent and Jean-François Plante were all honoured at the event.

Implementation of the second phase of SAGIR (SGR2)

In May 2009 technology upgrades and improvements to work processes were undertaken with a view to implementing SGR2, the second phase of the Stratégie d'affaires en gestion intégrée des ressources (SAGIR). SGR2 deals with human resources.

The National Assembly has undertaken to modernize its IT infrastructure to manage financial, material and human resources, an ambitious undertaking across the civil service that seeks to replace out-dated systems with the SAGIR business solution, a seven-step process that will take several years.

Professional development

Training program for jurists at the National Assembly

As of April 1, 2009, all members of the Québec Bar will have to undergo at least 30 hours of training every two years to acquire, update and improve the professional skills required in their work.

In order to help employees and Members belonging to the Bar meet this new requirement, the National Assembly has set up a one-year workplace training program.

Health

Nutrition Month

To help staff maintain healthy diets and lead active lifestyles, the National Assembly organized various activities for Nutrition Month on the theme of "Celebrate food… from field to table!" Among other things, employees were invited to a conference, took part in an interactive quiz on *Canada's Food Guide* and were able to meet with a nutritionist. Healthy recipes from the dietitians' and nutritionists' website were also posted on the Assembly's intranet portal.

Promoting a healthy diet is part of the National Assembly's occupational health and safety policy, which aims to keep staff both mentally and physically healthy, and is in keeping with its Sustainable Development Action Plan.

Occupational Health and Safety Month

On June 10, 2009, 37 employees gave the gift of life by generously donating blood as part of the Héma Québec Blood Drive.

Occupational Health and Safety Month

September 2009 was designated Occupational Health and Safety Month in order to promote heath and safety in the workplace through a series of activities. It was also an occasion for occupational health and safety managers, the Joint Committee for Occupational Health and Safety (CPSST), members of the Association paritaire pour la santé et sécurité du travail – Administration provinciale (APSSAP) and National Assembly employees to share ideas.

Did you know?

The Joint Committee for Occupational Health and Safety (CPSST) took home the "Hommage à un bâtisseur" Award in the category for best occupational health and safety committee in the public service at the APSSAP Gala.

Fund-raising campaigns

Entraide Campaign

The honorary campaign president, Mr. Yvon Vallières, and the Entraide Committee for 2009 were keen to get involved by proposing some new activities, and so in addition to a luncheon fundraiser to mark the start of the new session and an Oktoberfest meal, a friendly competition was held between the various directorates, all of which responded enthusiastically to the challenge.

Auction for Haiti

Following the earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, employees at the National Assembly rallied to organize a special fundraiser. On February 18, 2010, items donated by parliamentarians were sold to the highest bidder in a special auction that raised almost $5,000. Money raised by Members and employees at the Assembly was donated to the Québec Division of the Canadian Red Cross's Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.

With each determined to outdo the other, the administrative units organized donation drives, sporting and art events and Christmas candy sales. Payroll deductions brought the total beyond the target of $44,000, thanks to the generosity of our staff. As the national campaign slogan puts it so well, once again this year Members and employees of the National Assembly "left behind a trail of generosity"!

A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The National Assembly on the Web — much more than a website

On March 16, 2010, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, announced the launch of the Assembly's new website. Boasting 68,000 pages of information and 7,700 videos, the new site is a unique and rich goldmine of reliable information on parliamentary work.

The site provides visitors with much more effective search tools and puts greater emphasis on the latest news from Parliament Hill. In addition to being more user friendly, the website has a more dynamic look and feel to it and lets visitors subscribe to RSS feeds.

Did you know?

The National Assembly has a total of 1,407 computers (369 of which are laptops) and 511 printers on Parliament Hill and in Members' riding offices.

Among other things, additions and improvements to the site now let visitors:

- Keep up with parliamentary proceedings in real time as they watch their Members at work in the Assembly and in committee
- Sign up for RSS feeds
- Make their voices heard by signing online petitions
- Take part in online public consultations
- Comment on topics under consideration by Members
- Follow the progress of bills
- Contact their Members more easily
- Learn about parliamentary history
- View the daily schedule at a glance by consulting the new Event Calendar
- Discover two new sections: "The ABC of the Assembly" and the "News and Press Room".

Over 18,000 people visited the site on launch day, a marked increase over the average of 5,000 visits per day.

Time for a change

The National Assembly website had been up and running since 1995–and was still using the same technology platform. Faced with the increase in content and changing needs and expectations of modern websurfers, the site simply could not go on with the same platform. The Assembly's information management tools were also in need of an upgrade.

The National Assembly turned to specialized firms to improve the way information is displayed on its website and modernize the tools (software, databases) its staff uses to create, publish and update this information. Close to 30 employees from the Assembly and these private firms steered the two-year project to a successful conclusion.

New technology to handle vast amounts of information

The technology overhaul spawned a new database that will be used for numerous IT projects at the Assembly, along with a brand new website and a software program to manage the site's huge amount of content. These tools will lead to considerable efficiency gains for employees.

The brand new **assnat.qc.ca** site
is like having your own seat in the Assembly!

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EXPENDITURES (2009–2010)

	Expenditure ($Thousands)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND LEGAL AFFAIRS			
Office of the Secretary General	1,318.0	12	0
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	410.3	5	0
	1,728.3	17	0
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LIBRARY			
Associate General Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure	669.2	10	0
Library Directorate	5,243.8	76	2
House Secretariat Directorate	638.7	9	3
Committees Secretariat Directorate	1,025.1	18	1
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	490.1	17	0
	8,066.9	130	6
INFORMATION AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS			
Directorate General for Information and Institutional Affairs	420.4	5	0
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	2,045.8	35	5
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	2,265.8	23	0
Communications Directorate	1,240.0	18	1
Educational Programs Directorate	614.6	8	0
	6,586.6	89	6
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS AND SECURITY			
Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information	441.4	4	0
Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate	4,864.0	57	29
Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate	10,259.9	34	1
Computer Services Directorate	5,812.2	45	0
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,419.8	27	0
Human Resources Directorate	9,811.1	22	0
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate	3,760.2	36	
Security Directorate	1,234.4	74	18
	40,603.0	299	59
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARLIAMENTARIANS	59,598.1		
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	4,189.4		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**120,722.3**	**535**	**71**

* Authorized FTEs (full time equivalent)

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

CAFENR: Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources

CCR: Committee on Citizen Relations

CC: Committee on Culture*

CCE: Committee on Culture and Education

CE: Committee on Education*

CHSS: Committee on Health and Social Services

CI: Committee on Institutions

CLE: Committee on Labour and the Economy

CPP: Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

CPA: Committee on Public Administration

CPF: Committee on Public Finance

CSA: Committee on Social Affairs*

CNA: Committee on the National Assembly

CTE: Committee on Transportation and the Environment

CW: Committee of the Whole

** Committees dissolved on September 14 2009*

BILLS PASSED

39th Legislature – 1st Session (April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010)

Government bills (passed)

2	CPF	An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 24 May 2007, to the 1 June 2007 Ministerial Statement Concerning the Government's 2007-2008 Budgetary Policy and to certain other budget statements
3	CI	An Act to provide for the implementation of the Entente entre le Québec et la France en matière de reconnaissance mutuelle des qualifications professionnelles and similar agreements
4	CAFENR	An Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses and to amend the Food Products Act
5	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting transportation services by taxi
6	CCR	An Act to establish a seniors caregiver support fund
7	CCR	An Act to establish an early childhood development fund and to amend the Act to establish the Fund for the promotion of a healthy lifestyle
8	CPF	An Act to amend the Securities Act and other legislative provisions
9	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure to prevent improper use of the courts and promote freedom of expression and citizen participation in public debate
10	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec
11	CPF	An Act to amend the Acts establishing Capital régional et coopératif Desjardins, Fondaction and the Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec (F.T.Q.)
13	CI	An Act respecting the Institut national des mines
14	CSA	An Act to extend the terms of office of the board members of public health and social services institutions
15	CI	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act respecting municipal courts with regard to court security
17	CI	An Act to establish the Office Québec-Monde pour la jeunesse and to amend various legislative provisions
18	CI	An Act respecting the Compilation of Québec Laws and Regulations
20	CI	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act respecting the Ministère de la Justice
21	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions in the field of mental health and human relations
22	CPF	An Act respecting the governance of the Régie des rentes du Québec and amending various legislative provisions

24	CHSS	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning health
25	CLE	An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act
26	CSA	An Act respecting clinical and research activities relating to assisted procreation
27	CLE	An Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and provide for increased water resource protection
28	CLE	An Act respecting the boundaries of the waters in the domain of the State and the protection of wetlands along part of the Richelieu River
30	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles
31	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting tourist accommodation establishments and other legislative provisions
32	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting the professional status and conditions of engagement of performing, recording and film artists and other legislative provisions
33	CPP	An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and other legislative provisions
34	CSA	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning specialized medical centres and medical imaging laboratories
35	CLE	An Act to modify the occupational health and safety regime, particularly in order to increase certain death benefits and fines and simplify the payment of the employer assessment
36	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly and other legislative provisions
37	CPE	An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 13 March 2008 and to certain other budget statements
39		Appropriation Act No. 2, 2009-2010
40	CPE	An Act to amend the Balanced Budget Act and various legislative provisions concerning the implementation of the accounting reform
41	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting transport infrastructure partnerships and other legislative provisions
42	CLE	An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions in relation to climate change
43	CSA	Tobacco-related Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act
45	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs
46	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions
47	CSA	An Act to amend the Act to ratify the Agreement concerning the building and operating of a hospital centre in the Kahnawake Territory
49	CSA	An Act respecting the representation of family-type resources and certain intermediate resources and the negotiation process for their group agreements, and amending various legislative provisions
50	CPE	An Act to amend the Act respecting financial services cooperatives and other legislative provisions

51	CSA	An Act respecting the representation of certain home childcare providers and the negotiation process for their group agreements, and amending various legislative provisions
52	CH	An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife
53	CI	An Act to create the office of Commissioner for complaints concerning mechanisms for the recognition of professional competence
55	CE	An Act respecting the implementation of the Ninth Protocol of Amendment to the Agreement on Internal Trade
56	CHSS	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services with regard to the certification of certain resources offering lodging
57	CAE ENR	Sustainable Forest Development Act
59	CPE	An Act to amend the Tobacco Tax Act and other legislative provisions primarily to counter tobacco smuggling
60	CCR	An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act and other legislative provisions
62	CW	An Act to amend the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act
63	CPE	Business Corporations Act
65	CPE	An Act respecting Infrastructure Québec
66	CI	An Act to amend the Act to protect persons with regard to activities involving firearms and amending the Act respecting safety in sports
69	CH	An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code as regards driving schools
70	CPE	An Act to amend various pension plans in the public sector
73	CH	An Act to provide for measures to fight crime in the construction industry
74	CPE	An Act to amend various legislative provisions principally to tighten the regulation of the financial sector
75	CI	An Act to amend the Police Act as regards cross-border policing
76	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions principally with regard to the awarding process for contracts made by municipal bodies
77	CAE ENR	An Act to amend the Cadastre Act and the Civil Code
80	CW	An Act to extend the term of the person designated to act temporarily as Lobbyists Commissioner
95		Appropriation Act No. 1, 2010–2011

Government bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee

44	CCE	An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act with respect to governance
48	CI	Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly
58	CPP	An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other legislative provisions concerning metropolitan communities
67	CHSS	An Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux
71	CTE	An Act to again amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions
83	CI	An Act to provide a framework for mandatory state financing of certain legal services
87	CPI	An Act respecting the legal publicity of enterprises

Government bills at the stage of passage in principle

38	CCE	An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level and the Act respecting the Université du Québec with respect to governance
54		An Act to amend the Act respecting the Agence de l'efficacité énergétique and the Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie
79		An Act to amend the Mining Act
82		Cultural Heritage Act
84		An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie as regards the reliability of electric power transmission
88		An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act as regards residual materials management and to amend the Regulation respecting compensation for municipal services provided to recover and reclaim residual materials
90		An Act concerning Parc national du Mont-Orford
92		An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to electoral representation
93		An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to political party financing rules and to amend other legislative provisions
94		An Act to establish guidelines governing accommodation requests within the Administration and certain institutions

Private Members' public bills (passed)

199	CW	An Act to proclaim the International Day of Non-Violence

Private Members' public bills at the stage of passage in principle

192	An Act to amend the Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities in order to bring the excluded lands back within the boundaries of the park
193	An Act to amend the Transport Act
194	An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act
196	Québec Public Sector Employees Disclosure Protection Act
198	An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws
390	An Act to proclaim Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day
391	An Act to assert the fundamental values of the Québec nation

Private bills (passed)

200	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Malartic
201	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Boucherville
202	CPI	An Act respecting Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada
203	CCI	An Act respecting the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec and the Fabrique de la paroisse de Saint-Dominique de Québec
204	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Brownsburg-Chatham
205	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Hyacinthe and Ville de Shawinigan
206	CPI	An Act to amend the Act to amend the charter of La Mutuelle Ecclésiastique d'Ottawa
207	CC	An Act respecting 75D rue Sainte-Ursule, Québec
208	CPP	An Act concerning an immovable occupied by Ville de Boucherville
209	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Gaspé
210	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier and Ville de Lac-Sergent
212	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Mont-Saint-Hilaire
213	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Percé, Ville d'Amos and Ville de Rouyn-Noranda
214	CPI	An Act to amend the charter of l'Abbaye de Saint-Benoît-du-Lac
215	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Sept-Îles
217	CHSS	An Act to amend the Act to incorporate The Wales Home
218	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité de Saint-Ambroise

Private bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee

216	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Rimouski

MANDATES CARRIED OUT BY THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies

- Performance, issuing of permits and oversight (the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux) (Auditor General's 2008–2009 Report, Volume I)
- Cegep business relations with partners (Auditor General's 2008–2009 Report, Volume I)
- Financial support for community groups allocated by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (Auditor General's 2008–2009 Report, Volume I)
- Government interventions in the mining sector (Auditor General's 2008–2009 Report, Volume II)
- Monitoring of the Québec Health Record project (Auditor General's 2009–2010 Report, Volume I)
- Government promotional and prospecting measures for foreign direct investment (Auditor General's 2009–2010 Report, Volume I)
- Housing initiatives (Auditor General's 2008–2009 Report, Volume II)
- Management of contracts involving a component of risk at the Ministère des Transports (Auditor General's 2009–2010 Report, Volume II, Chapter 4)
- Follow-up on the 21st Report on the Accountability of Deputy Ministers and Chief Executive Officers of Public Bodies
- Québec Ombudsman's 2008–2009 Annual Management Report

Other mandates:

- Appearance of the Auditor General as part of the examination of his annual management report and the examination of his financial commitments for April 2007 to March 2008
- Election of the committee vice-chair
- Appearance of the Auditor General as part of the examination of his annual management report and the examination of his financial commitments for April 2008 to March 2009

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 public bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2009–2010

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 4, *An Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses and to amend the Food Products Act*

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Interpellations:

- The agricultural chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade
- Energy management in Québec

Consultations:

- General consultation on Bill 57, the *Forest Occupancy Act* (mandate transferred from the CLE to the CAFENR on September 15, 2009)

Other mandates:

- Examination of Hydro-Québec's 2009–2013 Strategic Plan

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills and 11 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2009–2010

Interpellations:

- The situation affecting Québec's regions

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 58, *An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other legislative provisions concerning metropolitan communities*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 76, *An Act to amend various legislative provisions principally with regard to the awarding process for contracts made by municipal bodies*

Other mandates:

- Consideration of the draft regulation on residential swimming pool safety
- Examination of financial statements, the activity report and the development plan of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec

Committee on Culture

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills and 1 private bill

- Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2009–2010

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 32, *An Act to amend the Act respecting the professional status and conditions of engagement of performing, recording and film artists and other legislative provisions.*

Committee on Culture and Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 private bill

Interpellations:

- The impact of a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that invalidates certain provisions of the Charter of the French language

Consultations:

- General consultation on the consideration of Bill 38, *An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level and the Act respecting the Université du Québec with respect to governance* and Bill 44, *An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act with respect to governance* (mandate transferred from the CE to the CCE on September 15, 2009)

Committee on Health and Social Services

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills and 1 private bill

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 24, *An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning health*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 56, *An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services with regard to the certification of certain resources offering lodging*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 67, *An Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux*

Other mandates:

- Election of the committee vice-chair
- General consultation on the paper entitled "Toward a Stronger and Fairer Québec Pension Plan" (mandate transferred from the CSA to the CHSS on September 15, 2009)
- Special consultations as part of the mandate on the issue of dying with dignity
- Appearance of health and social services agencies from the Capitale-Nationale, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Côte-Nord regions as part of the examination of their annual management reports from 2005–2006 to 2008–2009
- Appearance of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services as part of the examination of their annual management reports for 2003–2004 to 2008–2009

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 5 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2009-2010

Interpellations:

- Government interventions in the Québec mining sector
- The exclusion of child support payments from income calculation under various social laws, i.e., the *Individual and Family Assistance Act*, *An Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses*, the *Legal Aid Act* and *An Act respecting the société d'habitation du Québec*

Consultations:

- General consultation on Bill 57, the *Forest Occupancy Act* (mandate transferred from the CI to the CAFNR on September 15, 2009)
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 73, *An Act to provide for measures to fight crime in the construction industry*

Government agency oversight and accountability:

- The Commission des relations de travail

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 public bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2008-2009

Interpellations:

- The school dropout issue in Québec

Consultations:

- General consultation on the consideration of Bill 38, *An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level and the Act respecting the Université du Québec with respect to governance* and Bill 44, *An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act with respect to governance* (mandate transferred from the CE to the CCL on September 15, 2009)

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 7 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2009-2010

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 7, *An Act to establish an early childhood development fund*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 34, *An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning specialized medical centres and medical imaging laboratories*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 43, the *Tobacco-related Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 49, *An Act respecting the representation of family-type resources and certain intermediate resources and the negotiation process for their group agreements, and amending various legislative provisions*

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 51, *An Act respecting the representation of certain home childcare providers and the negotiation process for their group agreements, and amending various legislative provisions*

Order of initiative:

- The phenomenon of homelessness in Québec (mandate transferred from the CSA to the CHSS on September 15, 2009)

Other mandates:

- General consultation on the paper entitled "Toward a Stronger and Fairer Québec Pension Plan" (mandate transferred from the CSA to the CHSS on September 15, 2009)

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 13 public bills and 3 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2009-2010

Interpellations:

- Québec's public finances
- The legacy of Québec's current Premier: debt levels of Quebeckers since 2003
- Québec's budget situation

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 40, *An Act to amend the Balanced Budget Act and various legislative provisions concerning the implementation of the accounting reform*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 63, the *Business Corporations Act*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 65, *An Act respecting Infrastructure Québec*

Orders of initiative:

- The indexation of pension plans in the public and broader public sectors

Other mandates:

- Continuation of the debate on the Budget Speech
- Public hearings on the results of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 11 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2009-2010

Interpellations:

- Québec's correctional services
- Effective ways to combat economic crime

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 15, *An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act respecting municipal courts with regard to court security*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 21, *An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions in the field of mental health and human relations*

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 48, the *Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 53, *An Act to create the office of Commissioner for complaints concerning mechanisms for the recognition of professional competence*
- General consultation on the consideration of Bill 78, *An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to electoral representation and political party financing rules and to amend other legislative provisions*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 83, *An Act to provide a framework for mandatory state financing of certain legal services*

Other mandates:

- General consultation on the *Draft bill to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and parental authority*

Committee on Citizen Relations

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Interpellations:

- The immigration situation in Québec

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 16, *An Act to promote action by the Administration with respect to cultural diversity*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 60, *An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act and other legislative provisions*

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 8 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure for 2009-2010

Interpellations:

- The positions defended by the Government of Québec in Copenhagen

Consultations:

- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 28, *An Act respecting the boundaries of the waters in the domain of the State and the protection of wetlands along part of the Richelieu River*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 30, *An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 41, *An Act to amend the Act respecting transport infrastructure partnerships and other legislative provisions*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 42, *An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions in relation to climate change*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 52, *An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife*
- Special consultations on the consideration of Bill 69, *An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code as regards driving schools*
- General consultation on the consideration of Bill 71, *An Act to again amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions*

Other mandates:

- Election of the committee chair
- Special consultations on the paper entitled "Le Québec et les changements climatiques: quelle cible de réduction d'émissions de gaz à effet de serre à l'horizon 2020?"
- Special consultations on the paper entitled "Une première liste des indicateurs de développement durable"
- Special consultations on the consideration of the paper entitled "Vers un développement durable de la pratique"

Government agency oversight and accountability:

- The Commission des transports du Québec
- The Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement

ALLOWANCES GRANTED TO MEMBERS

Wage bill of Members	
Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$11,988,907

Other allowances	
Allowances for expenses, attendance and allowances for political activities	$2,941,085
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	$2,400,503
Travel from electoral division to the Parliament Building	$1,165,957
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,519,478
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture and office equipment during the first term of office	$67,349
Electoral division office operation expenses	$4,800,003

Other expenses	Members'	Office of Members	Total
Wage bill	$13,247,459	$6,247,638	$19,665,097
Travel expenses	$390,275	$442,766	$833,041
Research services of political parties			$2,358,404

APPENDICES

MANDATES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCHES

The **Secretary General** is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and chief advisor to the President and Members in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, administers day-to-day affairs and carries out all other duties assigned to him or her by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he or she is the secretary.

The **Office Secretariat Directorate** organizes and follows up on the work of the Office and provides Members with information on their working conditions and the services available to them. It also assists the Secretary General in the day-to-day running of this office and coordinates and carries out mandates and projects for the Assembly.

The **Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate** advises the National Assembly on legal matters and provides all professional services relating to the drafting of private Members' public bills and private bills.

The **Associate General Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure** coordinates, plans and supervises the activities of the parliamentary sector and assists the Secretary General in his or her advisory role with respect to Assembly and committee proceedings. It provides professional expertise in the field of parliamentary case law and carries out studies in doctrine.

The **Library Directorate** is responsible for the preservation of parliamentary documents and the management and retrieval of archives. It maintains a collection meeting the needs of current and future users. It offers various reference, press documentation and research services to parliamentarians and the administrative branches of the National Assembly.

The **House Secretariat Directorate** prepares, provides for the orderly conduct of and follows up on Assembly sittings. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

The **Committees Secretariat Directorate** provides all professional and administrative services required by standing committees for the organization and conduct of their activities.

The **Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate** provides all professional and technical services for the translation, revision, publishing and printing of legislative bills and answers the translation needs of other administrative branches.

The **Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information** plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the administrative and information sector directorates, in addition to providing all the related professional and technical services. It assists and advises the Secretary General in his or her role as manager of administrative affairs and with respect to digital information security.

The **Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate** coordinates the television broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and certain special events, along with the audio recording of proceedings and the production of the *Journal des débats* (Hansard), including all the related production activities (transcription, proofreading, editing and layout).

The **Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate** advises Assembly authorities and procures goods and provides services required for telecommunications and the management and furnishing of buildings.

The **Computer Services Directorate** directs and advises staff and authorities and provides office and IT services (software, applications, equipment, training). It also manages all IT equipment, as well as the local area and wide area networks.

The **Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate** advises and provides services relating to financial management, budget preparation and accounting operations. It also dispenses procurement services.

The **Human Resources Directorate** is responsible for all activities and all support and advisory services relating to human resource management for the administrative branches and the Members.

The **Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate** provides support services to the parliamentarians and the administrative branches, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing and photocopying, office supply procurement and the distribution of parliamentary documents. It is also responsible for food services and the management of the restaurants.

The **Security Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on all security and safety measures and is responsible for the safety of persons and property as well as for the security of buildings and offices of the Assembly.

The **Directorate General for Information and Institutional Affairs** plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the communications, educational programs, international relations and protocol and visitor service directorates. It assists the Secretary General in his or her responsibilities for the outreach initiatives of the National Assembly.

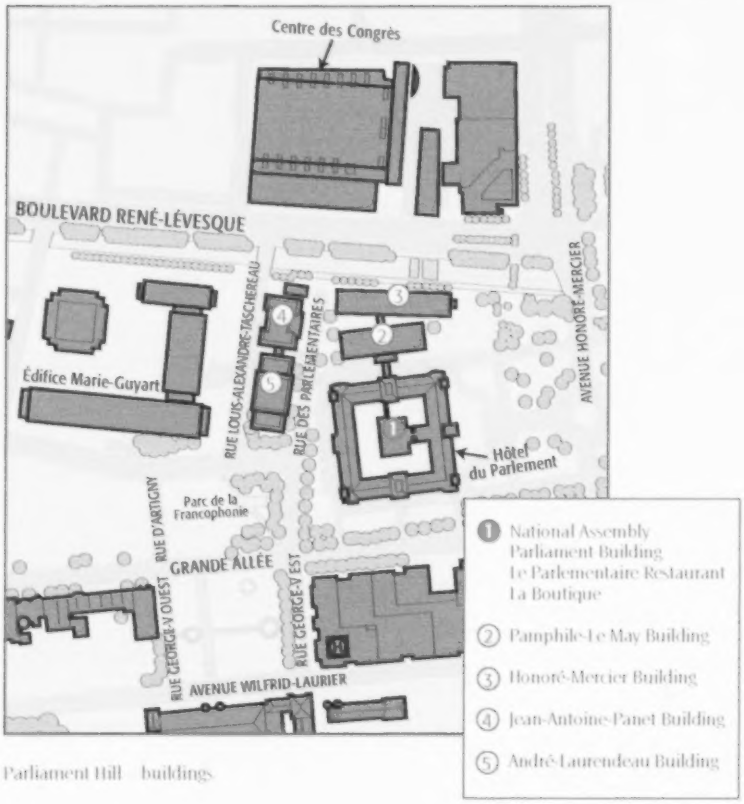
The **Communications Directorate** promotes outreach by informing the public of the democratic role of the National Assembly. It is responsible for the institution's communications and public relations. It provides graphic design, publishing, drafting and copyediting services, as well as a media information service.

The **Educational Programs Directorate** develops, organizes and creates educational programs and materials for target clienteles, as well as providing professional and technical support for parliamentary simulations.

The **Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the National Assembly in this area.

The **Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate** coordinates official receptions and ceremonies at the National Assembly and is responsible for visitor and information services as well as guided tours.

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Parliament Hill – buildings

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Parliament Building
Québec City, Québec G1A 1A3

General information
Telephone: 418-643-7239
Toll-free number: 1-866-337-8837
Fax: 418-646-4271
accueil@assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Regular hours
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Summer hours
June 24 to Labour Day:
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Weekends, June 24, July 1 and Labour Day:
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Reservations required for groups of over 10

OUTDOOR GUIDED TOURS

June 24 to Labour Day:
Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Information
Telephone: 418-643-7239
Fax: 418-646-4271
accueil@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations
Telephone: 418-643-6640
Fax: 418-643-6378
resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE

Regular hours
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer hours
June 24 to Labour Day:
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Weekends, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information
Telephone: 418-643-8785
Fax: 418-528-6022
laboutique@assnat.qc.ca

* Subject to change without notice

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June 2010